

NORTH

MISSION NEWS

NORTH MISSION NEWS / ASSOCIATION, 3004 - 16th. Street
San Francisco, CA 94103 TEL: (415) 626-2882

Editor-in-Chief
Victor Miller

SEPTEMBER 1990



NEW COLLEGE EXPANDS ITS MISSION BASE (See page 11)

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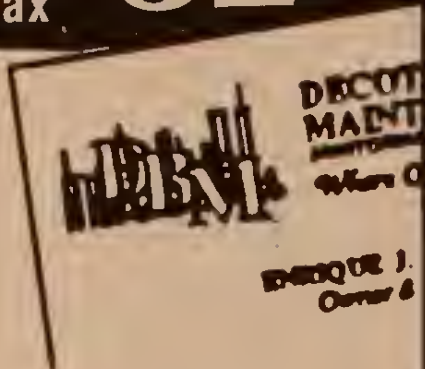
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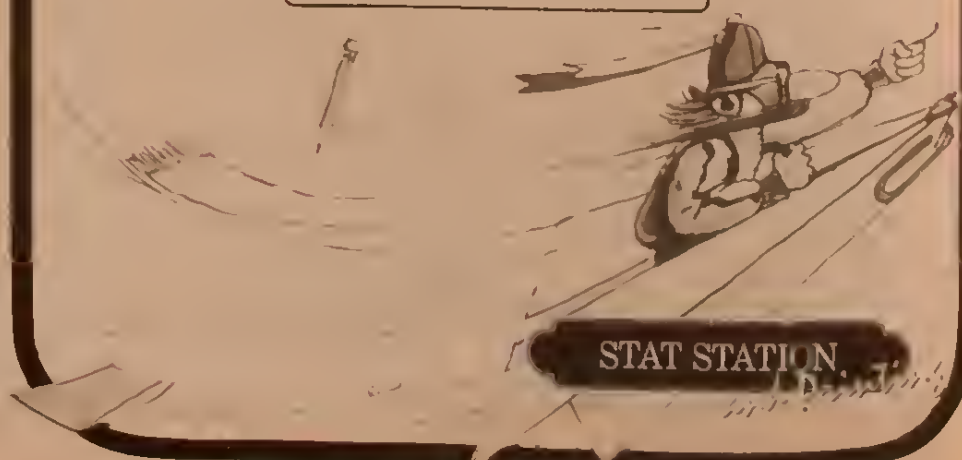
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THE 12TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL DE LAS AMERICAS

A CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS

On Sunday, September 16th, the 12th annual Festival de las Americas will cap off a year of solid progress in the revitalization and beautification of the 24th Street community. The Festival, which is expected to draw upwards of 50,000 people, will run from South Van Ness to Bryant on 24th Street, beginning at 11 AM and ending at 6 PM.

World class entertainment, a vast array of international foods, crafts and special events for children will all be part of the celebration, but beer booths will not. The Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA), responding to an increased concern regarding the problems of alcoholism in the Mission, has entered into a joint agreement with long-time and continuing Festival sponsor Anheuser-Busch to discontinue beer sales. This may be a first for street fairs in San Francisco.

The Festival itself is only the most prominent activity in a series of community projects that have been underway along 24th Street in the past year. The 24th Street Revitalization Committee, which consists of community agencies such as the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA), businesses and individuals such as police commander Michael Brush has, thanks to funding from the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, been able to keep up an energetic pace in moving things forward on 24th Street.

The 24th Street mini park has undergone a complete rehabilitation including restoration of the park's murals, enhanced lighting, a security fence and new picnic

tables. Overgrown street trees along 24th Street have been trimmed back to humane proportions. Hundreds of residents have participated in 6 "Clean Sweep Programs" which have removed trash, garbage and graffiti from the neighborhood.

On the economic front, low interest loans have been made available to merchants for storefront improvements. Also underway is the restoration of one of the Mission's cultural treasures - the Balmy Alley murals which have been in a state of deterioration due to vandalism. Perhaps coincidentally, but probably not, crime is on the decline in the 24th Street area.

One thing Festival organizers are most proud of is the "Emblems of the Americas" project. Multicolored aluminum emblems (40" x 28") consisting of the flag and symbolic image of each of the countries of the Americas will become a permanent feature of the 24th Street scene. 24 will be installed in time for the 24th Street Festival, and an additional 12 by early 1991.

The inspiration for this project came from the similarly decorated Avenue of the Americas in New York City, which caught the imagination of MECA director Roberto Hernandez over 8 years ago. The design of the emblems is the work of renowned Mission Grafica, directed by Rene Castro. Funding for emblems came from a grant from the Mayor's Office of Community Development to MEDA. Project sponsors felt that, in conjunction with other improvement activities, the emblems will increase community pride, add visual appeal to the street and draw visitors from



throughout the Bay Area.

The Festival itself will have something for everyone. Musicians will include Salsa King Tito Puente, winner of 3 Grammy Awards, his niece Millie P., Latin-rock bands MALO and BANDIDO, Ballet Folkloricos and the exciting Machete Ensemble.

For the weary parent, there will be a special children's area set up between Bryant and York on 24th Street. This area will feature a Baby Derby sponsored by Huggies and pony rides, a petting zoo and all

kinds of fun and games. For car lovers, there will be a low-rider's car show which will highlight elegance and outrageousness in urban car-culture.

In addition to all these attractions will be that very special intensive cross-culturality of arts and crafts, which has been one of the Festival's most appealing aspects.

So go to the Festival, have a great time and celebrate a year of change for the better along San Francisco's Avenue of the Americas.

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OMEARA MURDER IGNITES OUTRAGE

Clyde Lear, a 24th Street merchant was working up a head of steam at an emergency community meeting August 28th at Bayview Federal Savings following three murders within three blocks of the 16th & Mission Koban in one week...

"We need to get back to some old fashioned walk-the-beat rules," he said, hinting that merchants would organize to resist paying the business tax. "On August 6th I called Angela Davis to get policemen at the 24th Street BART..."

The ensuing wave of laughter was about the only harmonious moment in a long, long night for Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, Mission Captain Mike Hebel, former Captain now Commander Michael Brush and hundreds of angry residents who never did learn whether it was Supervisor Angela Alioto or newscaster Belva Davis whom Lear (apparently unsuccessfully) approached.

"I called the cops four times last week, I never saw one," began a typical exchange at the meeting, for which hundreds of bilingual flyers warning of Violence! Urination! Car Thefts! etc. were prepared. "Where is our money going?"

While disgruntled bystanders muttered

and the resulting media circus, distinguished by a lack of either subtlety or accuracy.

Among the misconceptions clarified by O'Meara's acquaintances was that his fiancée was flying in to the wedding and the belief that he was withdrawing money from the bank's ATM device (he was, in fact, taken off in the act of relieving himself upon the bank).

The first business day after the slaying, a television news crew was observed lining up willing local talent to pretend to be making withdrawals from the ATM, with the director barking at his "cast" to look more frightened.

No such spectacle greeted the deaths of the other two men. On the day O'Meara died, Anthony Gallespie was stabbed to death in a stairwell at the Valencia Gardens project. A suspect was questioned and released, and Homicide Inspector Art Gernans was unable to report further developments by press time.

On the following Friday night or early Saturday morning a Latino man, whose identity is being withheld pending notification of relatives, was found dead in Mission Street near 18th, where he had lain for at least half an hour. According to Homicide's

told the News that he had responded to the reported discovery of a car taken in an armed robbery earlier. Before that, he had driven an elderly tippler home from a bar because "I couldn't leave him walking around out there." On his radio, he heard a call for an ambulance to respond to a Code 3 (highest priority) assault case.

"Sometimes there are 12 calls on the line. I've worked the Mission for nine years and the problem is still that we're understaffed."

In Homicide, Inspector Mullane reports a similar crisis. "Fifteen years ago, we had 23 detectives working Homicide. Today, we have only 14."

Nonetheless, Mission residents generally feel they are being shafted by the City. The 16th and Valencia Merchants' Association has submitted a 400-signature petition to Mayor Agnos demanding more Koban staffing and a doubling of police presence.

After nearly two hours of citizen complaints about everything from marijuana selling and smoking in Dolores Park to daylight muggings to illegal aliens who paint houses and return to burglarize them and urinate on the walls, Captain Hebel made the Bayview crowd a proposition... more cops on the beat would mean less response to nuisance crimes. "We're all over the district to take care of everything from a guy with an open can of beer to a guy with a baseball bat."

It didn't fly very well, being the outcome of a very ugly evening at which calls

for "nighthawk diplomacy", the prospect of increased racial conflicts and vigilante violence were out on the table for all to partake of... a consequence of the irresistible force of rising violent crime meeting the immovable objectivity of empty pocketbooks. More of the same seems headed down the pike, especially when Mayor Agnos pokes his head into a planned community inquisition September 5th (6:30 PM) at Hawthorne School 825 Shotwell off 22nd.

To make the evening a consummate public relations fiasco, Kozmick Ladyc showed up to pass around Questions for the Evolutionary Nineties, the 18th and last of which went: "Have you ever felt that Mother Earth is a Galactic Reform School/Training-Prison Planet and/or Lunatic Asylum?" Nobody was asked to raise their hands in agreement; the answer was academic.

Anyone having information about any of the three Mission murders should notify SFPD Homicide at 553-1145. Responses will be kept confidential.

by Brian Doohan



Photo by COLLETT SWENY

A SIDEWALK MEMORIAL TO PAUL OMEARA

"to Deputy Mayors", "to Art and the Seven Dwarfs", Gonzalez said "We've got to put our money where our mouth is. I'm a Supervisor! I'm on your side."

As a crescendo of boos rolled over the room, a woman in a red sweater responded but was shouted down by a fierce man in horn rimmed glasses shouting obscenities, first at Gonzalez, then at a policeman who asked for order. "You can't keep order on the street, why do you think you can do it here?"

Gonzalez asked "all those who want to have an orderly meeting raise your hand," and quickly added "I think it is rude that a woman isn't allowed to speak."

At that, the ingrate in red stood up again and denounced "the big Jim Gonzalez kiss-off" in reference to his plan to locate a hiring hall for day laborers at 25th and South Van Ness, evoking a tumult of applause from the predominantly white crowd, punctuated by hisses and shouts of "Racist!" from a handful of minorities and liberals. Again the Supervisor, like an embattled teacher at a tough middle school, asked for a show of hands as to who wanted to talk about crime and who wanted to talk about the laborers. With the crowd split, Gonzalez quickly declared "OK you want to talk about crime."

The largely unmentioned "crime" encompassed all three murders, all of which remain unsolved, but the dense turnout was clearly a response to the beating death of Irish cabdriver and student Paul O'Meara in the parking lot next to Wells Fargo Bank

Mike Mullane, numerous witnesses had passed by, believing him to be just one of the many passed-out drunks that dot the landscape.

Both Homicide Inspectors detailed the growing problem of getting people to come forward. In the O'Meara slaying, the principle witness was unable to identify the killers on account of being kicked in the face when he went to aid the victim. Other witnesses to all three murders have remained in hiding... perhaps a legacy of a recent witness killing (in which the alleged perpetrator was captured only after another murder).

As one attendee of the Bayview meeting pointed out, "the people in the BART Plaza all know one another and they know if someone is informing on them."

While the murders were touched on only briefly, numerous speakers criticized what they perceived as Koban understaffing. "Something is not working with the Koban," said Gonzalez. "It's a joke. What was supposed to be a symbol of police presence has become a symbol of police absence."

One participant asked why the neighborhood received less police protection on a per capita basis than the rest of San Francisco. "Because we live in the Mission!" someone shot back.

"My kids contributed to the Koban," one woman recalled. "They had a Read-a-Thon. Now when we go by, my kids asked why there are no police there."

On the night of the O'Meara killing, the Koban was staffed by Officer Miller who

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A LONG HARD LOOK AT 16TH & MISSION

by VICTOR MILLER

Following the brutal murder of Paul O'Meara, media sensationalism ran amok. The 16th and Mission area was depicted as a neighborhood in rapid deterioration due to a dramatic increase in crime. The true picture of the neighborhood is both better and worse than portrayed in daily media. Better in the sense that there has been no sudden increase in major crime and, in fact, some types of violent crime are down from what they were a year ago. The picture is worse because 16th and Mission has had an intolerable crime problem for some time, but the community has not been given the resources needed to combat it.

The official statistics for the Mission's number one crime reporting plot #414 (15th to 17th street, South Van Ness to Valencia) are indicative of a neighborhood that is pivotal; things can go up or down depending on the willingness of Mission residents to demand the level of protection City Hall has, thus far, been reluctant to provide.

414 is one of some 800 statistical reporting areas in which the city is divided. It has, over the last five years, remained one of the top hot spots in terms of what is termed major crime (homicide, rape, strong arm robbery, assault with a weapon, aggravated assault, non-aggravated assault, burglary, theft and purse snatch).

414 ranks 5th in overall incidences of major crime for the first six months of 1990 after ranking 3rd or 4th for every year since 1985. This indicates the city, as a whole, is becoming less safe, not that crime is a problem limited to a particular area.

"Other", as indicated in the chart, refers to incidences such as drunkenness, aggressive panhandling or other incidents that make up the sleaze factor. The figures on this type of crime are up slightly (5.2%) from last year, but well below the huge increases in 1987 and 1988.

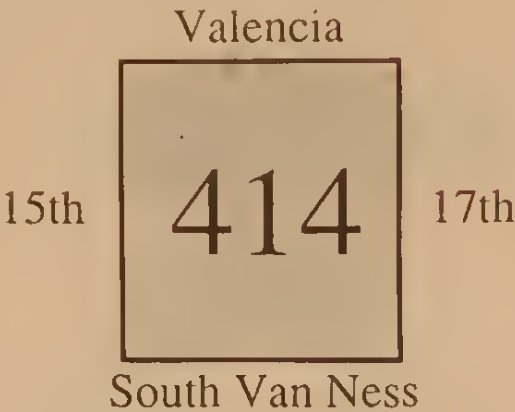
The "Earthquake Theory" that says winos and junkies displaced by housing losses from the October '89 earthquake have suddenly invaded the Mission is simply not supported by the statistics.

	Homicide	Rape	Strong Arm Robbery	Other Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Non-Agg. Assault	Resident Burglary	Other Burglary	Theft over \$400	Auto Theft	Purse Snatch	Other Theft	Other Reports
1985	0	10	49	35	84	111	34	44	32	24	7	255	847
1986	2	6	49	34	64	116	37	37	38	59	7	248	897
1987	2	3	62	42	87	141	32	47	90	70	12	325	1260
1988	2	7	67	51	70	137	27	40	81	67	23	239	1559
1989	2	5	76	39	111	105	19	64	103	56	10	245	1242
1990	2	0	92	36	100	110	26	36	52	42	8	200	1306

(1990 figures are projected by doubling data for January - June 1990.)

Strong-arm robbery nearly doubled in 5 years, from 49 to 92. The increase from 1989 is 21% (76 to 92).

	% change '89 to '90
Strong Arm Robbery	21.1
Other Robbery	-7.7
Aggravated Assault	-9.9
Non-Aggravated Assault	4.8
Resident Burglary	36.8
Other Burglary	-43.8
Theft Over \$400	-49.5
Auto Theft	-25.0
Purse Snatch	-20.0
Other Theft	-18.4
Other Reports	5.2



Of course Plot 414, like most high crime areas (the area around the Army-Folsom projects being a notable exception), ranks near the top in both serious and petty offenses. Mission Police Captain Mike Hebel expressed the opinion at the August 28th Bayview Federal community meeting that "if you let a place look like hell, people who live like hell will come here. The people (criminals) you have complained about do not exist in clean neighborhoods."

The forecast for the rest of 1990 (arrived at by doubling the numbers for the first six months of the year) shows significant declines in several types of crime - most significantly rape and aggravated assault, but an alarming increase in armed robberies which have nearly doubled since 1985.

At the August 28 meeting, Hebel offered a curious sociological insight. As the

supply of drugs diminishes, career criminals are adopting a "steal, don't deal" mentality. "Instead of selling drugs to people, they're out robbing people."

The rise in armed robberies and resident burglaries are obviously directly related to the general drug trade and to Valencia Gardens Housing Project. When the current "we're-going-to-hell" hysteria has run its course, specific counter-measures to these problems can be implemented. One such program is already on the way (see page 7) but was, of course, not reported in the recent media extravaganza.

One target of community wrath has been the Koban, whose shifting schedule never goes beyond 10 PM in the evening, in spite of the fact that 97 of the 352 reported incidents of major crime for the first six months of 1990 occurred between the hours

of 1 and 4 AM.

The Koban is certainly the first project which the community should either rethink or scrap in favor of more efficient crime prevention. Unless the Koban supporters can produce hard data to prove its value, the consensus opinion of the community will be that it's a flop.

The murder of Paul O'Meara should be seen as the vicious crime that it was, but castigation of the 16th Street community is not productive. Residents and business owners in the neighborhood must demand a minimal level of public safety from city officials who, over the years, have operated on a policy of malignant neglect as far as 16th Street is concerned. There is the arguable exception of Supervisor Jim Gonzalez who by trying to do something is catching hell for everything.

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GUARDIAN ANGELS ON 16th ST.

The Guardian Angels are being seen in the neighborhood now. They have stepped up their presence as a direct result of the murder of Paul O'Meara at the 16th Street Wells Fargo Bank.

Chris Ford, leader of the San Francisco Chapter of Guardian Angels, says they will not come into a neighborhood unless the community wants them there. "We need people to come out of the woodwork and embrace us in order for us to do battle with these modern day mutants (street thugs)" he said.

The Para-police group will use as much

aggression as needed" to intervene in street crimes. They stay away from "victimless" crimes, Chris Ford says, and focus on assaults and muggings. "Slam n' Jam techniques" in which the Guardian Angels break up the crime being committed and hold the victimizers for police are what they term their methods.

But if they run into a particularly heinous crime such as the beating of Paul O'Meara: "We'll give 'em what we call therapeutic back massage."

Bryan Ping

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MISSION CRIME: The Long Term Problems and Some New Solutions

by Tara Kramer

Past the graffiti-covered walls of The City Club, a bar on the corner of 16th Street, the chain of cars promenades down the Capp Street corridor toward 18th Street. Lone women, wearing skintight jeans, mini-skirts, heels and slatherings of make-up lean against parked cars and occasionally get into a moving one. At 5:00 p.m., it is the peak business hour for the street prostitution the is giving the Mission the the name, "The New Tenderloin," by some public officials.

A survey of who is here includes a heavysset white woman with long hair and sprayed-on jeans, a large Black woman in a mini-skirt, a rail-thin white woman with spiky, bleached hair and a complexion like hamburger, a still-attractive Latina woman wearing an animal-print bra and bicycle shorts, and a tottering white woman in rags, with her front teeth knocked out. They all declined to be interviewed for the *North Mission News*.

Police Captain Mike Hebel, of the Mission Station, described the activity at a Police Commission meeting in August at Horace Mann Middle School. "Somewhat disturbing is that we're developing a new Tenderloin," said Hebel. Citing 71 arrests in the area in June, he said many of the drug, alcohol and prostitution arrests showed a resemblance to some of the problems plaguing the Tenderloin. He said many of the suspects had a "last known address" from the Tenderloin area itself. Most involved violation of Health and Safety Code section 11-550, which is to be under the influence of controlled substance.

Thirty-nine arrests for soliciting were made in the Mission in July, according to police Lieutenant John Harrington of the Vice Control section at the Hall of Justice. He said the Mission was one of the top three areas for prostitution arrests, along with the Tenderloin and the Hayes Valley. (He noted that the figure was a low one, due to budget cutbacks).

Asked why street prostitution was occurring at a high rate in the area, Hebel said, "We think it's directly related to drug addiction, to heroin and crack cocaine. Streetwalkers sell their bodies to feed their addictions."

Lisa Amico, representing COYOTE (Cut Out Your Old Tired Ethics), a prostitutes' rights organization, said of the prostitutes walking the streets, "probably 60 to 70% are IV drug users." Street prostitutes, like anyone else with an addiction, could be difficult to reach in order to offer recovery, says Amico.

Asked where drugs were obtained in relation to Capp Street, Hebel said drug trafficking in heroin along the Mission corridor parallel to Capp Street was largely responsible. He named other areas of drug concentration in the Mission. "Crack is known to be sold near the two

President of the Central Mission Merchants and Residents Association. "We catch them giving injections and leaving used condoms in the alleyways and parking lots," said Wilson. "There was one who was murdered in the parking lot," he added.

Janice Belen, owner of The City Club, at 2950 16th Street, said prostitution has been problematic and getting worse in the past three and a half years she has been in business. "I don't let hookers into my club," she said. "I stand up to them and I've paid a price." She said prostitutes, disliking her stance, "took a knife to my car to get even," as her own mother looked on. "I ask them to please leave when they come around here."

Asked whether prostitution contributed to crime, Captain Hebel said, "Our general impression is that the areas where you have high prostitution are the high-crime areas. I'm not sure what the lead is, whether crimes come first and prostitution follows or vice versa. It seems totally drug-addicted in the Capp Street area. Every hooker there is addicted to some drug. It means they have to turn a certain

along with the drugs and open prostitution for the "tenderloinization" of the Mission. Police Officer Frank Palma, who enforces liquor laws, said an informal agreement between the police and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to not issue additional liquor licenses along the Mission corridor and along the 24th Street corridor was in effect for the time being. "We have an inordinate amount of them already. There's hundreds." He said this ban would also apply to new restaurants and cafes. "People go in, they can eat and drink. But if they stumble out after too much to drink, then it becomes an enforcement problem. We have limited resources and don't want the added problems." He said that police had "very good support and backing from community groups."

Hebel said he believed working with recovery and community groups, rather than just more arrests was the ultimate solution to the Capp and Mission corridor problems. "I have got to get them into some kind of recovery program. How you get someone in a recovery program who does not want to go, I don't know. But recovery of addicts in this district is the way I'm going to solve this problem."

ALCOHOL MORATORIUM

In order to extend the informal moratorium, a coalition of commercial and residential associations has organized to press for a total ban on alcoholic beverage licenses along the Mission corridor.

Citing pervasive public drunkenness in areas like Sycamore Street, at 16th and Mission, and in Mission Playground, coalition member Hilda Bernstein said the goal was to "help people feel safe, since drinking and public drunkenness doesn't do that." She added, "It's to put all the people who exploit the Mission on notice that those days are over."

Coalition member Vivian Azadian said drunks near Sycamore Street were a public nuisance. "I just saw a filthy dirty one passed out yesterday morning with his arms and legs flung out. He was dead drunk and snoring. People had to step over him. It was right by the Mission Grocery." (Mission Grocery at 2126 Mission Street is currently under boycott by the Sycamore Neighbors Association because it is believed to sell liquor to drunks).

Palma said, "Besides the unsightliness of lying in doorways, they make an unhealthy atmosphere. For instance, they do a lot of panhandling to get their booze. Who's to tell the difference in between a wino who walks up to you, and a guy who wants to rob you? It does lend to an



MISSION STATION CAPTAIN MICHAEL HEBEL

Photo by M.P.R. HOWARD

public housing projects. Lower 24th Street has a lot of PCP available, and if it is marijuana, it can be found near Dolores Park."

Hebel, along with beat cops on the street, believe the problem is getting worse around the Capp Street area. "The arrests clearly show it," said Hebel.

Community groups and small businesses have expressed dissatisfaction at public meetings and to police about the prostitution on Capp Street. "The biggest complaints we have are about prostitutes on Capp Street," said Charles Wilson,

number of tricks every day to support the addiction, or else get the money some other way. That may mean committing other crimes. Some do auto boosting" (stealing property from parked cars).

Amico said, "It's some sort of blurred idea that prostitution brings crime. People ask did they make it that way, or was it that way so they go there? Historically, it's the prostitutes who get the blame."

The preponderance of on- and off-sale liquor licenses especially along the Mission corridor has also been named

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atmosphere of wariness. Drunks harass women, they accost you for money, not to mention steal from you. It's just a lousy situation."

The current informal moratorium now covers new licenses for bars, cafes, restaurants and "off sale" or, retail, establishments. "We're even more down on those," commented Mission Station Police Officer Sally de Haven.

Palma said liquor licenses for cafes and restaurants, as they are structured by the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverage Control, include off-sale privileges, which permit such establishments to sell take-out liquor. He said the problem was compounded by new establishments with existing liquor licenses moving into the area from elsewhere, and bringing those licenses with them into the Mission.

Another problem, says Bernstein, is of enforcing liquor laws on such a large liquor community. "There are only four investigators to police the 7000 license holders in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties," she said. "A lot of liquor is being sold to minors and people already intoxicated." Palma said police had limited resources, although they planned an aggressive undercover program against liquor license violators in the near future.

The coalition has received the support of State Senator Quentin Kopp, and Director of Alcoholic Beverage Control Jay R. Stroh, said Bernstein. "We are going to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for a zoning ordinance to provide city controls on this," she added.

WOMEN ON THE MOVE

With a goal of making Valencia Gardens Housing Project a drug-free community, a group of residents calling themselves Women on the Move, working with Glide Memorial Church, have formed a program to prevent evictions in their community due to substance abuse.

Carlene Williams, Valencia Gardens Tenants Association President, and Commissioner for the San Francisco Housing Authority said that evicting tenants for drug addictions causes "double problems" for the Valencia Gardens community. "Once people with substance abuse problems are evicted, they come back and hang out and deal and use drugs," said Williams. Evicting tenants, she said, "wasn't solving problems, it was creating larger problems."

The program, which receives no funding from the city, and only office space from the Housing Authority, is a self-help project operated by a women's support group led by Kay Howard. The program actively identifies "at risk" residents likely to be evicted. Identifying factors include delinquent rent, Social Service intervention, repeated acts of property damage, continuous traffic in and out of the unit, and referrals by other residents. Those who are identified are

advised of impending eviction and encouraged to seek out help through recovery group meetings with Women on the Move. Besides halting evictions, residents are helped with personal problems, and can take workshops covering nutrition, family reunification, parenting skills, legal assistance, job training, AIDS education, and self-esteem. Tenants enrolled in the program will also be required to send their children to school and to negotiate modified payments of their overdue rents with the housing manager. "Clearly it is more cost-efficient to collect the back rent versus evict the tenant," reads a program statement written by Williams and Howard.

Kay Howard is an attractive, energetic woman with strong personal magnetism. Having entered Glide's recovery program for drug addiction, she says she looks upon her role in creating the program as part of her own recovery, "to give back what I've gotten." A Valencia Gardens resident, she will provide counselling and moral support to women in the program. "I support them one day at a time," said Howard. "I know an addict is not going to say, 'I'm and addict,' so I will go to them first." She said she hoped her experience with drug addiction will help her understand people in the same predicament. She became interested in creating the program as she looked upon empty public housing units around the city, thinking about the evictions. She said she presented the idea of preventing evictions to Carlene Williams.

Housing Commissioner Carlene Williams is a four year resident of Valencia Gardens and has worked to reduce crime and preserve the community. She comes across as serious and compassionate. "In talking to Kay, I liked the idea, because I was trying to figure out what we could do about this," said Williams. In the years she has lived in Valencia Gardens, she stated she saw whole families evicted onto the streets, "mothers with children...grandmothers," said Williams. "Once they're on the streets, you've lost control. If you can keep them on-site, you have some control," and the addicted people, otherwise difficult to reach, can be helped, said Williams.

Williams said she felt optimistic about the program because drug abuse in the projects tended to be confined to people who are drug users rather than drug sellers. "If we can get the users into recovery, the dealers will leave," said Williams. Drug dealers, she said, were known to be non-resident outsiders who come to the projects to sell. "They hide their drugs in the phone booths, in the grass, in car bumpers, in the trees. They break into the tenants' mailboxes and keep it drugs there, too."

Mission Station Police Captain Mike Hebel agreed with Williams on the tactics of drug sellers around the Valencia Gardens projects and said a new tactic against them would begin soon. "We are going to

borrow some drug-sniffing dogs and take them to the projects. Drug peddlers are hiding drugs in the hallways, and by the sidewalks. They're hiding them in boxes in the lawns--like buried treasure," said Hebel. Williams said that the chief problem with this was "then, if they are questioned about drug selling, they don't have any drugs on them," and can continue to sell with impunity.

Hebel said he believed the recovery program initiated by Williams and Howard would make an impact. He added that because of their past actions, crime statistics showed no significant rise at Valencia Gardens, an impressive figure in

light of rising crime in other areas of the Mission. "There are real brave and courageous people at Valencia Gardens," said Hebel. "They have a very strong tenants organization who are not afraid to call the police. As a result, crime is more manageable and controlled than elsewhere," said Hebel.

Williams said, "I was involved (in preventing crime and drug addiction) long before I became tenants union president." Referring to her motivation to fight it, she said, "When I first moved here, I couldn't understand how people could allow this to go on and not make a change."

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MISSION BAY GOES TO THE VOTERS



November's election is still two months off and the most visible aspect of the campaigning - the ritual parade and public scourging of the candidates and initiative spokespeople... won't begin in earnest until after Labor Day.

But the fix seems to be in on one important local issue, and a general cloud of deceit looms over both the state and San Francisco ballot measures (we'll tackle the politicians next month with an update - and the North Mission Association recommendations - in November).

On August 8th, Proposition I... exempting Mission Bay's 4,800,000 square foot office development from Proposition M in exchange for certain "benefits" implied in the 1,200+ page Development Agreement... was placed on the ballot.

But the railroad lawyers, a few score of community service agencies and the City Planning Commission continued to revise the Development Agreement and, in fact, the Supervisors will be drawn into the fray during September and even October. The deal: gold for silence. But as time winds on, Prop. I's silent partners are finding more and more lead as they scratch the surface of the agreement.

The main complaint with Proposition I has been that office jobs for 24,000 will be accompanied by housing for only 16,000 - less than half of which is affordable. You don't have to be Einstein to calculate that 8,000 new workers are going to be looking for homes... either in the burbs which will gridlock the freeways, streets and bridges, or in nearby neighborhoods... meaning

another round of rising rents and evictions.

But the Mission Bay Consortium, a collection of social service agencies prowling beneath SP's table waiting for somebody to drop a crust of bread or gristle bolstered by the hitherto politically pure San Francisco Tomorrow, was romanced into withholding opposition while negotiations continued past the deadline to form an opposition committee.

Catellus (the railroad's novice development subsidiary) clearly exasperated citizens, planners, Supervisors (such as Nancy Walker who warned "we are taking a lot of things on faith), even Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenburg (who repeatedly challenged the deal's financing as a bunch of "wish lists" and finally confessed "I don't know what the hell is going on here") and Planning Commission President Jim Morales who warned on August 20th that it "comes with a price tag that will have to be addressed on an annual basis."

Finally on August 23 (15 days after the ballot submission deadline), the Planning Commission approved the development agreement. Developers received hugs from nonprofit beneficiaries and the Mission Bay Consortium rewarded the Planning Commission with a cake while those with nothing to gain and much to lose stood by and watched in stony silence.

This grimness was understandable. The day before, it was learned that the application of volunteer community advocates to hold the official opponents' designation open until resolution had been usurped by one Dehnert Queen who, without inform-

ing anyone, had filed papers with Sacramento declaring himself the legal opposition which carries the right to write voter handbook official arguments and raise money.

Queen, a perennial political candidate who's running for Supervisor, is well known for appearing at public meetings to express ideas that are... to be charitable... a little bit odd; not as odd as those of Kozmic Ladye, for example, but this development did reportedly delight Dick Pabich, the East Bay political consultant for Catellus, as well as opponents of Props. H and J (below) which Queen grafted into his less than coherent statements.

Once something is put on the ballot it should be voted up or down as is. The arrogance of the railroad lawyers is matched only by the blatant venality of organizations and individual "insiders" entrusted with the public's loyalty - like the one who vowed I'd be "an enemy for life" if I dared criticize parasitism.

Some elements of SFT vow that compliance in the development agreement does not mean endorsement of Prop I, but inasmuch as no opponent showed up when the Democratic Party endorsement of the deal and the media are already relegating opposition to Mr. Queen by default, one has to wonder.

Among the many faults of Prop I is that much of the so-called affordable housing rests upon a house of cards atop a foundation of toothpicks in the path of rows of falling dominoes. One of the latter, Proposition J, allocates \$15 million out of the general fund, most of which will be sucked up by Mission Bay. Not only could this pit housing advocates against those who want money for police, AIDS, children etc., the development agreement was written so that

if I passed and J failed, Catellus could be released from a host of its contractual obligations. In any event, the big winners of this election will be lawyers.

On the other side of Mission Bay (both geographically and on the ballot), Proposition H is a citizens' initiative to limit hotel development on the Embarcadero. Despite contradictory evidence including a study in the Examiner showing that San Francisco could attract substantial port business from Los Angeles, the thrust of local government has been to sell off land and assets... Maggie Thatcher's infamous "privatization" tactics... in order to cover up gaping City deficits.

A few months before San Francisco's liberal housing and development advocates were undercut by Dehnert Queen, its Democratic Party suffered a similar catastrophe when it failed to secure the nomination of party loyalist Jim Wachob to run against independent Quentin Kopp. The winner was an unknown... Patrick C. Fitzgerald who's not unknown any longer.

Fitzgerald, as the Democratic nominee, has emerged as spokesman against the latest Domestic Partners measure, Proposition K. Calling the gay rights measure "a slap in the face to 3,000 years of Judeo-Christian-Islamic" morality, Fitzgerald concluded that it "would have been laughed out of the late Emperor Nero's pagan Roman Senate" with its only supporter the mad Caligula.

Like Mission Bay opponents, the Democrats are damned if they do (renounce their own candidate) and damned if they don't. Most likely they'll do the former, setting the stage for a crushing defeat and raising Kopp's status as a challenger to Mayor Agnos.

by Brian Doohan

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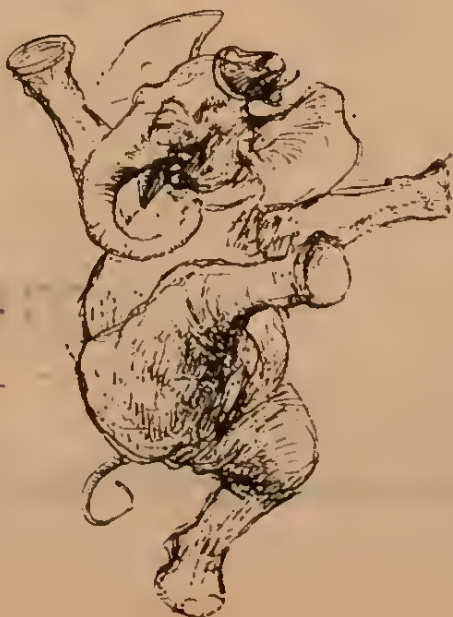
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AN OPEN LETTER TO CHIEF OF
POLICE FRANK JORDAN:

As customers of the bars "Este Noche" and "La India Bonita", we are concerned about the lack of police protection on 16th Street in the evening.

Many latino gay customers have been verbally and physically attacked by men on the sidewalks of 16th Street as well as in the side alley and in the public parking lot by the alley. The presence of individuals who are intoxicated and under the influence of drugs as well as the sale of drugs has increased the danger of being physically assaulted in the area. Several of the victims have called the police after such attacks but the police have not responded promptly at all. We believe that, as tax payers, we are due the same kind of police protection in the Mission District as in the other sections of the City.

GELAAM (Gente Latina de Ambiente) a Latino Gay and Lesbian organization, has organized to defend and advocate for the rights of the Latino Gay and Lesbian community. We have met with several of the victims as well as with the owners of "Esta Noche" and "La India Bonita" bars, which have expressed the same concerns mentioned above.

It seems to us that this is an issue of utmost importance for our community and, as such it should receive first priority in your department.

We are amenable to engage in a discussion to bring an end to the wave of violence and bigotry to our brothers and sisters. Please feel free to call our organization, as we would like to meet with you ASAP.

Miguel A. Zapata, Active
President - Gente Latina de Ambiente

still be alive.

Why can't the SFPD, BART Police and UC Police coordinate a schedule to have the KOBAN staffed in the night hours when it's most needed? WE MUST PUT PRESSURE ON THESE AGENCIES TO DEVELOP A VIABLE AND AFFORDABLE PLAN FOR STAFFING THE KOBAN.

Do we want a useless piece of architecture, or do we want a beacon of help that CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?? I urge all Inner Mission merchants and residents to get involved in our neighborhood. I know I will. We must take back our streets and make them safe for everyone to enjoy.

We will not tolerate senseless acts of violence against anyone. Let's be proud of the Inner Mission, with all of its diversity. It's a great place to be.

Robert J. Cassetta

Editor:

That "it's not right to write" message on the buses drives me crazy. It's clearly addressed to children of color, since Black, Chicano and Asian kids are pictured.

In this racist, patriarchal culture, middle-aged white men dominate: their voices are heard all around. Listening to them has resulted in poverty, pollution and war. We need to hear from children of color. Rather than telling them not to write, encourage them in every possible way.

I realize the bus placard is against graffiti - destruction of property! I say destruction of people is far worse than destruction of property.

If some children today have so little to give them a sense of self and place that the only way they can mark their presence is by putting their initials on the side of a building, what does that say about the society?

It's OK to write. Write more than a name. Write a poem, a story, a volume. If the mainstream media refuses to publish you, write it on a bus.

Judy Helfand

To Whom It May Concern in the
Labor Union Movement:

In my article on the San Francisco Day Laborers Program which appeared simultaneously in the August issues of El Tecolote and North Mission News, the word our preceded the phrase "union-plug system" and it should not have.

I am retracting the use of the word "our union-plug system" because it conveys the erroneous implication that the Mission Hiring Hall does, in fact, have one, which would then improperly and perhaps illegally supplant that system's (the plug system's) proper use by the various labor and trades' councils and unions themselves.

I apologize to all concerned if such a reading has inadvertently led to the purposes, services and activities of Mission Hiring Hall being, in any way, misconstrued.

I hope this apology and retraction will minimize any damage done. It was certainly not my intention.

Again, please accept my apologies and retraction.

Very sincerely, Madeleine T. Saussotte

ENDANGERED

I am not surprised that the media "neglected" to report that a Black person was stabbed to death in Valencia Gardens the same weekend of the well publicized fatal clubbing of the student from Ireland.

Even though the murders occurred only a few blocks from each other, it seems that violence and death are thought to be so normal in the socio-economically deprived environment of the housing projects that it is no longer "newsworthy" to cover such common-place incidents.

If we are to ever stop the violence, we must uphold and respect the sanctity of life regardless of the race, ethnicity or social status of the victim.

J. B. Saunders (Founder, ENDANGERED SPECIES, a mutual self-help support group for Black men)

Editor:

Once again, the specter of violence descends on the Inner Mission District. The senseless and brutal killing of Paul O'Meara on Friday, August 17th near the Wells Fargo Bank ATM underscores the urgent need to staff the POLICE KOBAN located less than 100 feet from the crime scene in the BART PLAZA.

I live on Albion Street near 16th and use BART daily. I have never seen the KOBAN staffed in the evening or overnight hours. WHY NOT????? Perhaps if it was, Paul O'Meara would



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NEW COLLEGE GROWS INTO THE '90S

- by Bryan Ping

New College of California, one of the few surviving colleges, of the alternative education movement of the 60's and 70's, is doing more than fighting for breathing room in a conservative era; it is expanding.

The school has acquired the lease on the Valencia Rose building, previously the home of Intersection for the Arts at 766 Valencia. The new building, across the street from the original New College, brings the total of buildings they will now occupy to three with the Fell Street location being the second.

The absorption of Antioch College of San Francisco has made the expansion possible, bringing with it many new courses and faculty members and swelling the student population 35% since last year.

The building will house what is to be a cultural center, a 100 seat theatre and even a cafe, all open to the public.

New College hopes the cultural center will open up an active participation of the community with the institution, providing an intersection for ideas and dialogue between the two.

The 100 seat theatre will showcase numerous events such as lectures, films and performances, most of which will be created by the students and staff and will be free to the public.

The cafe is being built and, of course, will serve coffee and pastries, etc.

The expansion marks a positive move for New College, having tripled enrollment in the last decade and continued to grow and establish a stronger financial footing than has been apparent in previous years when enormous debt and internal chaos caused doubt about the survival of the institution.

It also marks a solid return to the neighborhood, with two buildings on Valencia Street. They had, for a while,



Photo by KAREN WONG

Bay Area Performance Artist Genny Lims teaches in the New Arts and Social Change Program

left the neighborhood entirely when they were forced to move to Fell Street and put 777 Valencia up for sale to cure their miserable financial situation. But it wasn't sold and times did improve.

It comes as no surprise to some that New College is enjoying expansion at the beginning of the new decade and the close of the old, intensely conservative one when Yuppies and Young Republicans ruled.

But despite decades and finances and addresses, New College is a school with an alternative attitude to standard institution. Peter Gabel, President of New College, states "At New College, we reject the standardized, other-directed

education that tends to fill students with self-doubt while fostering an uncritical deference to external authority. Our aim is to empower students by validating intuition and imagination as well as intellect and by helping them develop tools with which to understand and affect the forces that have shaped both their fields of study and their own lives."

New College believes in community involvement, social change and cultural activism, offering courses in these and class credit for community work.

The law school at New College is exclusively for public service and many classes are from alternative perspectives such as feminist psychology, the social

psychology of gender and courses in alternative medicine.

Upcoming events at the new cultural center theatre include: The Politics of Imagery by faculty member (and CONTRABAND member) Keith Hennessey, a week-long series of events. Also, a labor film series. Most of the expansion has come together very quickly so dates and times are not yet pinned down, but on September 7 there will be an orientation event open to the public. It will occur in three parts: 1-5 PM will be open to students, 5-7 will be open to students, faculty and the public and 7-10 will be open to all with music and entertainment by the faculty.

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PUBLIC HOUSING AS ART

by Amy Greenstadt

When I tell people where I live in the North Mission, I always hear the same refrain: "Isn't that near the projects?" From the moment I moved here, I was taught to avoid that block on fifteenth street between Guerrero and Valencia that contains Valencia Gardens, our local housing projects. I heard rumors of crazed crack-addicts and machine-gun-toting drug dealers.

The first time I did inadvertently wander past Valencia Gardens, it was as if the very air had changed. The Mission is a poor neighborhood, but what I saw there was more than just poverty. The beige buildings surrounded by dead grass and gnarled, leafless trees, form a fortress - hiding the project from the outside world. From the street, I could catch glimpses of what lay inside the fortress - a cement court, with statues of rat-like animals in the center and "Crack Kills" stencilled on the walls.

It did feel like the middle of a war-zone, but not a battleground for strung-out drug dealers. It felt more like a town that had just been bombed, its residents wandering around the wreckage, still not able to comprehend the destruction.

Like most of Valencia Gardens' neighbors, I haven't ventured beyond its imposing walls. To me, as to most of us, the residents of housing projects remain a mystery. We know the projects must be more than the drug-dens the media portrays - we know that families live there, children, old people. But it's hard to get more real information.

Now, an art exhibit called "The Crack House is the White House - Public Housing: Who's In Control" is providing another perspective on life in our city's housing projects. The exhibit at the Capp Street Project, just two blocks away from Valencia Gardens at fourteenth between Mission and South



HUNG OUT TO DRY IN THE CRACK HOUSE

Van Ness, includes videos, artwork and written documentation by and about project residents throughout San Francisco. The show's curators, Peter Byrne, Stacy Evans and Todd Edelman, want to explode the myths surrounding public housing.

The exhibition is part of a larger program, called "Who's the Landlord", organized by five Mission arts organizations, including Capp Street, Artists' Television Access and Galeria de la Raza. The "Who's the Landlord" project seeks to increase involvement between artists, community activists and Mission residents to address issues of housing and gentrification in the Mission district. With the help of a \$23,000 grant, the project will continue to sponsor art exhibits, public awareness campaigns and

forums into 1991.

The current exhibition at Capp Street recreates the claustrophobic environment of the projects. Visitors enter a long, labyrinthine passageway bathed in yellow light and follow its twists and turns for several feet before finally emerging into any open space. From here, the passageway widens and is filled with sculptures, paintings, murals and video monitors. Various documents are plastered to the walls, ranging from newspaper articles to official correspondence to tenant agreements. Even H.A. Director David Gilmore's employment contract is displayed on one wall.

The overall effect is a virtual bombardment of information. Voices and music from the various videos echo in the

small space and often drown each other out, and the collection of art is eclectic - from drawings by children in projects to complex sculptures.

In the first small open space, a video plays showing scenes from a housing authority meeting interspersed with shots of a housing project. In the video, we see the decidedly evil-looking face of David Gilmore intercut with scenes of a woman showing us her dilapidated apartment. The woman explains that all during the rainy months she has to hold an umbrella over her while going to the bathroom to shield herself from water dripping from a leak-hole over the toilet.

While many of the images in the video are arresting, the excerpts from the Housing Authority meeting are often dull and difficult to hear, and their meaning can only be absorbed with extremely careful and prolonged attention. Likewise, much of the art and commentary contains references which are not easily absorbed unless one is familiar with the issues at hand.

The exhibit's message is further obscured by the inclusion of a video on the homeless in the Civic Center Plaza and their persecution by the police - an issue which is not directly relevant to the overall theme of the show.

Despite these problems, the show does provide a great deal of interesting and often powerful information and images. There are two basic themes: the "War on Drugs", and the corruption of San Francisco's housing authority which, according to Peter Byrne, is one of the ten most troubled authorities in the country.

Clippings from newspapers describe the tactics of the "War on Drugs", which has allowed eviction from projects of families with members suspected of drug use, search of project apartments without search warrants, and an almost-constant surveillance by the police.

The art takes up these themes. One painting by Peter Greenberg shows bomber planes showering skeletal figures

Photo by FUMINORI SATO

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with giant hypodermic needles, while a sculpture by Eugene Rodriguez has a man's head and torso pierced by intravenous tubes connected to a series of red-white-and-blue hypodermic needles labeled "hate", "intolerance", "fear" and "suspicion".

Says Peter Byrne, "Since World War II, companies have tested new products — like Surf detergent — on housing project residents. The theory was, if it didn't kill them, it wouldn't kill anyone else. But more than that — they not only test products on the residents, they test the evisceration of civil rights."

The show's attacks on the housing authority are equally disturbing and less familiar. Perhaps the most shocking documents are pages from a 1989 independent audit which found an almost 91 million dollar discrepancy in the books, and such violations as a check-signing machine left on with blank checks in an unlocked cabinet nearby.

The curators of the exhibit listed their discoveries and their plans for change in an insert in the North Mission News' August issue. One of the most important concerns they have found among housing project tenants is the need for self-government, which they say the housing authority is actively thwarting. At the end of the exhibition, a leaflet is provided to visitors describing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's guidelines for Resident Management and homeownership in housing projects.

But there is one aspect of the show which I found unsettling — the phrase "Who's In Control?" from the show's title could equally be applied to the show itself. Just whose voice was I hearing as I walked through its corridors? Although it is a noble goal to combine the interests of artists, activists and those oppressed by the system, the show seemed to be claiming that these voices were the same.

The curators of the show gathered their information and art by going into the projects and housing authority meetings, getting together with tenant activists and researching documents. They feel that through these processes they have learned the perspective of the main voices in the debate. Said Peter Byrne, "I'm a revolutionary-minded person, but I wouldn't put a Maoist slogan in the show unless somebody from the projects did it. Right now, it's not a revolutionary situation. Maybe it will be, but not now." Even so, this approach should be made clear in the show, so that the audience can know who is speaking and for whom.

Another unclear element in the exhibit is the audience for whom it is designed. "The Crack House is the White House" is presented in an art space which, by virtue of the nature of art in this country, receives a predominantly middle-class, educated audience.

(The other exhibition currently on view at Capp Street, "Destiny, Entropy and Junk", is described by its artist as "an

Hegelian scenography that attempts to condense the psychological substrata of Western Culture since the Industrial Revolution and the Machine Age." This is clearly geared towards a certain type of viewer.)

Byrne agrees that "I don't think a lot of people from the projects are going to come out and see this show." Yet the "Crack House" show does not address the issue of its location and its intended audience, and that audience's relationship to the project residents which are its subject.

This seems to be because, in many ways, the "Crack House" show is not the major element of the project. Byrne and his co-curators say that they are more interested in the process, the opening of the lines of communication between artists and other political forces in the community. In a sense, the art produced is a kind of by-product of this process. Says Byrne, "our main thing has to be happening in the projects." Unfortunately, this approach has hurt the show, and probably lessened its impact for those who might get involved in the issues.

The show's curators stress that "Who's the Landlord?" is an ongoing project, whose ultimate purpose is building new alliances in the community. Other endeavors currently under discussion include a mural competition between the youth of the different projects, and the founding of a Wall, similar to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, which would list the names of those killed by drive-bys, crack cocaine and police violence.

Through endeavors like this, it is hoped that artists can provide ways for project residents to express their own identities and needs, and to organize themselves to combat their situation. At the same time, it is important to continue to inform the public about abuses in the government, and to encourage more individuals to form their own alliances. Project residents need resources from outside — especially legal support — to wage their war against the Housing Authority and achieve autonomy.

"The Crack House is the White House" was first planned only in May of this year. Its organizers are still engaged in a process of discovery. While the exhibition reflects certain confusions and incomplete ideas it is, in part, a documentation of a larger work which has not yet been fully elaborated. In its present form, it does provide some eye-opening information and insights, and is certainly worth seeing for anyone who would like to know more about what happens behind the scenes in this community.

The exhibit will be on view at Capp Street through September 29, and other "Who's The Landlord" projects will be forthcoming. To get involved in any aspect of "Who's the Landlord?", call Artists' Television Access at 824-3890.

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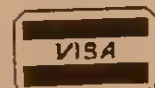
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NATIVE TONGUE

- by Claudia Lunstroth

NATIVE TONGUE, the work of eight poets, is an expression of the pain and chaos that are just two results of our multi-cultural society. It is a portable poetry reading by a group of artists who have worked together in the Mission for over fifteen years. Recorded at Klub Komotion and available on cassette, NATIVE TONGUE is a Spoken Word Project anthology produced for Onda Cultural.

Alejandro Murguia and David Valpendesta got tired of hearing about the various arts organizations in the Mission who claim to be an integral part of the multicultural richness of the neighborhood but who, in fact, have a very poor record of including minorities in their work. So, in response, Murguia said, "we reached out and got everyone," to put together a truly multicultural work which includes Latin American, African American, Filipino, Chicano and (even) white male voices. They are not anti-white, he explained, just against the elitist establishment that is so narrow minded and so dominated by the white male.

Murguia reads two poems on NATIVE TONGUE. "El Salvador Spring" is a powerful haunting poem about the contradictions life holds for a man forced to choose an alien home. Reading in a clear and steady voice, he speaks to a woman, also his memories, whose "kisses fill [him] with the taste of another country". This country, though his native land, is unlivable. There, "death rides in an unmarked Toyota pickup truck" and "women are routinely raped by US-trained soldiers". Safe in the north, he uses language to fight the specter of the past, but there is no escaping: "the map is drawn all over your body, the landmarks unmistakable". Though in the cold north, his "heart is on fire in the south".

"19 Men" is about the death of the men who died of suffocation while trapped in a train car in the heat of West Texas, and is less effective than "El Salvador Spring".

Q. R. Hand, the jazz and performance poet, also reads two poems. Both poems flow quickly and are complemented by Hand's deep, rhythmic voice. "Our Hemisphere" is a short

tribute to the "afro-latin-carob hillbillies" who used their roots to help them adjust to the new world. "Let the clan o'Nazis go back, we home here now," he says. "Some People Have Troubles" tells the story of a man from Peru who lives and drinks and finally loses himself in the Mission. Hand's mature voice has just the right smoothness and objectivity for this narrative, making the narrator as

alive as the protagonist. He uses simple but expressive language to speak as an American of an immigrant whose culture and language are foreign. He has affection for this man, but doesn't ignore his faults, which include drinking too much and treating his car better than his wife. This is a masterful story told in a 5:25 minute poem.

Xam Cartier's rapid fire reading,

and diurnal".

David Valpendesta's poem "The Homeless" is both lyrical and disturbing and is perfectly suited to the poet's loud, almost grating voice. Valpendesta's metaphors are excellent; their "wobbling shopping carts are the Rolls Royces", they have "amputated, dangling limbs of hope", "boa constrictor nights ravel around [their] cardboard shellers". He uses an extended metaphor about baseball, concluding with, "The homeless. A new national pastime."

Ana Castillo's "In My Country" speaks compellingly of another world, the antithesis of ours, where "children are not abused/beaten into adulthood" and "death is not a relief", where people "don't bet on reincarnation" or make analysts rich.

In "Haiti", Jack Hirschman addresses the revolution that must come to Haiti, and to humanity: "one day in the future these sounds are seeds of", the oppressed will come into their own. Al Robles' "Agbayani Village" speaks of a Filipino village where life is much simpler than in the cities of North America. And in her two poems, Janice Mirikitani speaks of the horrors of Hiroshima and relocation camps.

The success of a reading depends not just on what is read but also on the speaking talents of the reader — only a couple of the poems included here suffer in the reading. The recording quality was

done masterfully by Matt Callahan, Fred Cirillo and Robin Ballinger.

NATIVE TONGUE, a reading that can be appreciated again and again, reminds us of what can and should be learned from a truly multicultural event, and a truly multicultural society. It is an artistic success that belongs in every progressive-thinking person's poetry library. It is available at Rough Trade Records and City Lights Books and is available directly from Night Horn Books.



POET Q.R. HAND JR.

Photo by ROSE SKYTТА

tribute to the "afro-latin-carob hillbillies" who used their roots to help them adjust to the new world. "Let the clan o'Nazis go back, we home here now," he says.

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taken from her book *Be-bop Re-bop*, is a sharp and perceptive comment on life as an African American. She addresses the black caste system, a "ricochet racism to call our own", and tells about the dime store makeup she used in high school to hide her true coloring. She speaks of history and of those who, not recognizing the contradiction of the Yankee myth, escaped north, "where bigotry is hoodless

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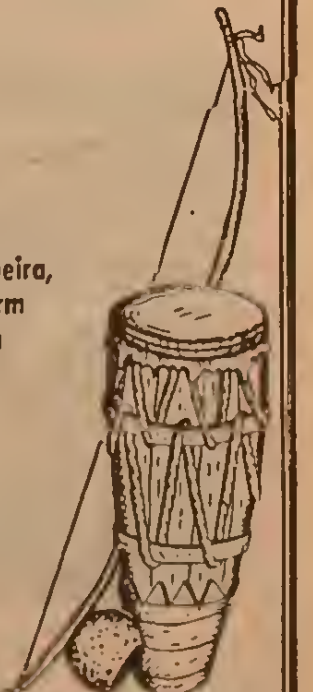
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Double Stigmatizing the Poor



by J. B. Saunders

I often wonder about the homeless mentally ill. When I hear the word I hear a double identifying mark of shame and discredit. It is bad enough to be diagnosed as being mentally ill, to be treated as if you must be electrically shocked back into sanity. And then, add to that the social stain of being classified as homeless. Wow! I ask myself, which came first, the homelessness or the mental disability? Is there a service available that will enable people who are homeless to deal with stressful situations that impair their ability to function in a so-called normal society?

All homeless people are mentally disadvantaged. All homeless people are lacking in the basic resources necessary to be in a position of equality in America. Homeless people do not have access to decent housing, medical care and educational facilities, and civil rights. Homeless people are deprived and underprivileged, culturally, economically, and socially. I know because I am homeless. I have experienced intense feelings of isolation, aloneness, and abandonment. I know what it is like to lose hope because you lack help. I, like a significant percentage of black men, could go to a psychiatrist and be mis-diagnosed as being paranoid-schizophrenic or manic-depressive, I could easily qualify for government entitlements for a state of mental "disease" caused by a racist, dysfunctional society.

San Francisco, the City of Giving, epitomizes the National Party Line which allows the few with a lot of money to control the many with a little or no money. The powers that be, and that includes the poverty-pimping institutions bankrolling money under the guise of self help, have no interest in homeless people breaking free from the welfare-plantation.

Our city administrators want to keep homeless people in their place:

institutions for the mentally ill, jails and shelters. And they want to keep the money within the system by reclassifying one-room shacks as permanent housing and calling it the Modified Payment Program. This is why San Francisco has no 24 hour facility to provide service to homeless people experiencing psychological crisis and in need of a place to drop-in and talk to someone who understands the mental difficulty of surviving on the cold, hard, mean streets of San Francisco.

"Most people would be diagnosed as mentally ill after a very short time of homelessness. Focusing on that as an issue really gets away from the cause of homelessness, and it makes it easy for people to not take responsibility for what is happening" said Mari Bianca of the Mental Health Advisory Board, the group mandated by the city to offer

consultation and advice from mental health professionals, advocates, and consumers to government officials dealing with city-funded mental health programs.

Ms. Bianca stated that the people who most benefit from the rich getting richer and poor getting poorer are the ones who don't have to look at the problem: "The people who don't have to pass homeless people on the streets, people who can act as if it (homelessness) is not an issue in this country, I'm talking about wealthy people."

The stereotypes found in literature, and the media, often depict homeless people with mental problems as deranged derelicts, devoid of common sense and decency. These sensationalist images evoke feelings of fear and stigmatization of all homeless people. No wonder people shy away from psychological treatment. Like all human beings, homeless people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. This is the basis for establishing any trusting relationship.

Take this advice: When dealing with a homeless person who is mentally distressed, your goal need not be to cure him or her, but to work with them to facilitate healthier functioning. When you are dealing with a person in a state of "dis-ease" sometimes the best cure is to help them feel at-ease. Where possible, refer the person to seek assistance from a mental health clinic or professional.

A special note for my homeless brothers and sisters: When I was president the San Francisco Union of the Homeless I organized a peer counseling drop-in component of Spiritmenders Community Center, 2141 Mission St., Suite #203, the telephone number is 255-2821. Call them for more information. Tell them J.B. referred you. Bye.

INDIAN CENTER THE PHOENIX RISING



- by Stan Zuni

The American Indian Center, located at 227 Valencia Street, San Francisco, is pleased to announce its continuing existence and role towards servicing the needs of American Indians in the Bay Area. Having overcome major administrative changes and developing new management strategies, the Indian Center is seeking to move forward as a cultural and social service agency in the 1990's.

The new staff at the American Indian Center is composed of three individuals. Managing the administrative duties of the Center is Erna Pahe. Erna has been instrumental in steering the Center through major changes affecting the Center's operations. She has had to deal with fiscal problems created by the past administration. These problems have caused the Center to file for Chapter 11 status, while attempting to solve creditor problems. In addition, Erna is involved with the task of securing foundation funds, through grantsmanship and proposal writing.

Assisting Erna in these endeavors are

Steve Eyres, office manager and Ann Martinez, receptionist. Other Indian agencies in the Bay Area have expressed the desire to pen letters of support in the American Indian Center's future attempts at receiving operating capital via grants and proposals.

The Hall rental of 225 Valencia Street is one way that the Indian Center is generating income to operate and maintain the Center. Current clientele and activities in the Center's hall rentals are: U.S. Registrars Office/voting booths; private weddings and receptions; social services presentors; dinner parties; Science of Mind Church of San Francisco meetings; and Women's Narcotics Anonymous group meetings.

The American Indian Center is looking to expand clientele in the rental of its hall. Interested parties should call Erna Pahe or Steve Eyre at (415) 626-8122 concerning scheduling and pricing. Volunteers with professional writing skills or grantsmanship abilities are needed to help the Center rebuild its role toward servicing the needs of American Indians in the city of San Francisco.

Photo by STAN ZUNI

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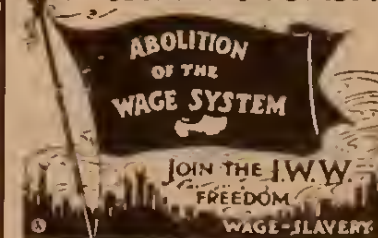
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MISSION SOUNDS

by KRISTY O'RELL

LA PAJARITA

So you're here in Mission's berth of self-proclaimed "new bohemia", about to wander in Cafe Picaro for a cup of joe and relax with something informative. Dash across the street to pick up a paper at La Pajarita, but wait! What's this? Did you ever really wander into La Pajarita and notice it's more than a Latin-oriented kiosk? If not, it's time to expand your impression of "media international" as La Pajarita is humbly sub-titled.

Concerning the musical stock, La Pajarita chiefly supplies cassettes (odd practice in this CD-centered culture) from the latin opera "Hommy" to contemporary rock artists Prince and Patty Smyth. Also, La Pajarita also carries recordings from the Middle East and Asia, exemplary for such a store with limited room. Along with a mixture of Cuban, Mexican and South American artists, you can also find the works of the Berkeley folk group Out West and various American and Spanish movie soundtracks (Ennio Morricone is well-stocked, a sign of good taste in my opinion).

Owner Carlos Muela, who also owns Cafe Picaro, seems to prioritize a vast selection over the amount of recordings per artist. Like the art that hangs on Picaro's walls, the music choices at La Pajarita make the statement of expanding the mind, expanding the senses.

Videos, books, magazines, music... La Pajarita is one of the few businesses in the community that sells Frida Kahlo prints with the likes of Oingo Boingo and Vogue (as well as the infamous Anderson Valley Advertiser). While La Pajarita does not carry used recordings, prices are modest and your money is invested into the small business community rather than the mindless glut of Rainbow Records. The medium is the message, and there's a lot to be said at La Pajarita.

(La Pajarita - 3165 16th Street near Valencia)

ROUND WORLD MUSIC

Robert Leaver of Round World Music knows what he sells. Along with co-owner and KUSF DJ Tim Hill, Leaver brings to the Mission what may be the most resourceful outlet for African, Caribbean and Latin American music in San Francisco.

"We want people to know they're welcome to come in and simply ask questions... a lot of information about African and Caribbean music is often distorted and misinterpreted by the media. Since it's becoming more recognized in the states, this music is being covered by journalists who simply don't do enough research. I've read stuff in the Chronicle and thought "How can they print this?" Leaver explains.

stirring, boisterous vocals easily envelop Round World's compact space. It's not surprising Kassav's Zouk rhythm is a sensation across the European continent. Influenced by traditional forms of Zairian, Senegalese and French Antillian musics, Kassav often draws huge audiences and has climbed to the Top 10 on the French music charts.

Round World Music offers everything from salsa to shona, with a



ROBERT Leaver AND TIM HILL

Cheerful and attentive, Leaver once worked at Stern's African Record Store in London, gaining experience and knowledge surrounding African and Caribbean music. Because of oppressive political and economical climates in most of sub-Saharan Africa, many artists flock to Europe to work with choice studio equipment, an organized distribution market and profitable tours. Leaver says Paris has unquestionably become the hotbed for new African sound for at least the last decade, and because multitudes of musicians from Senegal, Zaire and Haiti, to name a few, immigrate North, new blends and forms of music flourish.

"Many people here don't realize how popular African bands are in Europe... some play filled stadiums and often hit the national music charts," Leaver explains. Pulling out an LP from the French entourage Kassav, a melodic wave of beats, fused percussions and

comparable stock of CD's, LPs and cassettes. They also have an optimal mail order system linked to the most reputable distributors in African/Caribbean music. Introducing a new route to record sales by educating the public about the product, Round World Music is a warm welcome to the Mission.

(Round World Music - 491A Guerrero Street)

EPICENTER ZONE

A friend of mine recently put out her own fanzine in hope that its hardcore appeal and expressive forms will demonstrate to readers that anyone is invited to get involved. Funny I should drop in on the Epicenter Zone. This place epitomizes the philosophy of positive agitation, a verdant description to say the least. A branch of the successful and yes! non-profit folks! Blacklist Mailorder catalog, Epicenter Zone looks like a skinhead teen center more than a record store.

Dining booths, ping-pong, sombre murals and posters plastering the ceiling, EZ's spacious loft allows you to really and truly lounge, a must and a revery in times where record stores remind you of Safeway or reek with attitude.

Clay Cadie, a swell guy who started as a volunteer with Blacklist (Blacklist shares the EZ space, along with an extensive reading library holding fanzines, political journals and local newspapers) helps run Epicenter Zone. Pointing out that the store deals mostly with independent labels, Cadie says EZ concentrates more on what its employees are informed and akin to listening to. "Most of our stuff is punk and hardcore, imports and domestics. Eventually we'd like to expand with reggae and other music... this was just the best place to start," he explains.

Epicenter Zone has a good start on compiling a used LP section, with CD's and cassettes in limited quantity. However, the gang at Blacklist would be more than happy to order that Minor Threat or Mission of Burma CD you can never seem to find. If you don't walk out of Epicenter Zone with some great recordings, at least you'll know you have a place to find interesting company and perhaps a memorable game of ping-pong.

(Epicenter Zone - 475 Valencia near 16th Street)

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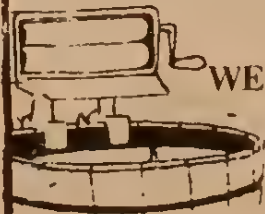
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WHAT'S JOHNNY'S PROBLEM?

- by Kristy O'Rell

Ever wonder about those ominous, dark vans with no window in the back that either drive maniacally fast or suspiciously slow? It seems befitting this type of vehicle would taxi me home after an interview with Johnny's Problem, a band that gives new meaning to rock politics as we know it.

"Who the hell are they?" you ask, and "who thought up that stupid name?"

concludes. Totally oblivious to the Parents' Music Resource Center (PMRC), Thomas is wonderful and inquisitive nonetheless. Inhibition and overexaggeration are not roles Thomas instinctively plays, thank god. Perhaps naivete isn't such a bad thing.

Attending a Problem show is an experience that combines the rowdiness and tearing guitars of early Replacement, the theatrical antics and Brady Bunch infatuations of Red Kross with a sense



S.F. Photo Conspiracy

L to R: E.J. SIMPSON, JOHN ABELLA, CHRIS THOMAS

Guitarist John Abella defends the correlation between his name and the band's signature as having nothing to do with himself, let alone his personal state of mind. Abella reminds you of that one friend who, while humorously engaging and talented, seems always to be near a break with sanity. Along with bassist E. J. Simpson and drummer Chris Thomas, Johnny's Problem is one of those "upcoming" bands who will drill their own hole and plug it before anyone has the notion of following in their footsteps.

Leaving Philadelphia for art school 5 years ago, Abella later persuaded Simpson to join him, which he did without objection. As legend has it, the trio publicly first licked chords five days after Simpson's arrival, somewhere between the Mabuhay Gardens and Grant and Green.

Tentatively titled somewhere between the Dragg and the Strangers, the boys were already developing a following that has become a raucous menagerie of Problem fans. Yet another attribute to be continuously undefined.

Unlike many of their musical contemporaries, Johnny's Problem really has no image. Some have called them "white boy funk" but once Abella peels an improv blues solo, you can't call them funk. And then there's that heavy-metal grind in their song "Sweaty Betty"... it's all so confusing.

And the lyrics... "I write hateful, vindictive songs, Chris writes vindictive, hateful songs and EJ writes romantic songs. That's why we don't date him," Abella offers. Asked if he feels emotionally changed since his recent college graduation, Abella laughs, replying "Yeah, more like a loser." This is someone many of us can relate to.

Though deep-down odalisque fantasies probably consume these young lads (EJ is a mere 21 years old while Chris plays dad at 24), Johnny's Problem holds no sexual barriers. While local comrades Psychefunkapus wail about wasting money on a tease, the Problem is more than glad to offer a candid chorus in "I Love You For Your Money".

"You write what you feel," Thomas

that "hey, these guys can play their instruments with technique." As far as a future record, the trio appears wary and not too concerned about what most bands consider the next worse thing to losing an appreciative audience, time.

"I've sent some tapes to a few record companies and they were responsive, but there's still more we want to check out," Abella says.

"It's hard to take things seriously when you see what some labels do to bands... destroy them," Simpson adds. "It's enough to make a guy like me jaded."

Playing the I-Beam on September 24, Johnny's Problem certainly goes to show that a band doesn't have to be categorized to have character. "We're not grunge rock, though we do dress kind of grungy. But who doesn't in this city?" says Thomas.

Driving in the Problem Van with Joe Walsh's "Life's Been Good To Me So Far" cranked to the hilt, I wonder. If not hopelessly unsure of what to expect next, always expect to rock to Johnny's Problem.

I have a feeling the Tipper Gore/Susan Baker rebuttal song we've all been waiting for is about to descend by inexplicable means.

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OFF THE EATEN PATH



Wednesday is my favorite day to read our twin beacons of light, the Chronicle and Examiner; this is the day the food section appears. At 5'11" and 130 lbs, and a science fiction fan, I love this section. The writers either go into maddening, unnecessary detail, or assume their readers have a lore only someone completely isolated from the real world would have. The food section is often a surreal trip down a mystical alleyway that only initiates can understand. Let's get started, but slowly.

From a recipe for Summer Pudding (*seasonal pudding?*): "Stem the strawberries." We're intelligent folk; we know this means: "Cut off the stems." Why couldn't they just say that? Why did they choose a verb that really means, "to make headway against"? A true idiot (not us) would think he'd have to make headway against a basket of strawberries. A true idiot would probably lose.

"Line with slices of bread, trimming some in the shape of darts..." I guess they mean triangles, otherwise you'd spend time cutting bread into this shape: . No pudding is worth that effort. Or pie.

"Weight down (cans of vegetables work well)." Using cans of motor oil or Spam might offend Earth First! and patrons of Greens, and in protest they would never eat again. And believe me, if I did have a can of vegetables, I'd open it, pop the stuff in the microwave and forget about preparing ridiculous dart-shaped shards of bread.

Here's a Leary-esque leap in consciousness: "To serve, turn out onto a plate. Cut into wedges. Pass a pitcher of cream." I tried coming up with a funny line, but I can't top that. Where the hell did "pass a pitcher of cream" come from? That paragraph sounds like a culinary haiku.

Ingredients in the recipes: "I bunch watercress, thick stems removed." Besides the fact that I don't have any idea what watercress is (yes, I recognize the word, but I truly doubt watercress is high up on the priority list for Ethiopian relief), what (or who) defines a bunch? I truly cannot believe there are watercress standards, like the amount of rads they're legally allowed to expose us to each year. But I'm especially curious about the "thick stems removed". If this means (as I suspect) to remove the stems, why add the word "thick"? Or does it mean there are WSUs (Watercress Stem Units), and you need to identify only the thick ones: "This watercress measures 50 WSUs. Paring knife!"

Or "add lime zest." What's a zest? All I can visualize is a green-colored bar of soap. Who makes up these terms?

Then they treat us like idiots. One

recipe says, "Steep the tea bag in boiling water for 5 minutes. Remove the tea bag and discard." If you don't discard it, will the stuff taste worse? Here's another gem: "Pour into a large jar." I think us baby boom Tupperware veterans are savvy enough to figure out the right size container. If they said merely "Pour into a jar" I wouldn't try to use a Gerber baby one.

Get this one: "Place in blender container." Without the word *container* I'd try pushing the stuff into the motor. "Stop motor as necessary to push mixture into blades with a rubber spatula." So don't depend on gravity, and don't use a nerf spatula; it has to be rubber or the food won't taste as good. And for God's sake, don't take the lid off with the motor running unless you want to serve your guests the food directly from across the room.

Then there was: "Don't let the cheese even think about simmering." Apparently Chronicle writers run into a cheese that sometimes outwits them. Must be a brie.

But when you need exact information, forget it. The genius who informs us to discard a used tea bag also says to buy "2 large mangoes". I assure you my Irish mother did not often buy mangoes when I was growing up in Detroit. If I had even said the word *mango* she probably would have washed my mouth out with lime zest. What constitutes a large mango? Size of a fist? Bowling ball? S&L bailout?

"Cool to cellar temperature." Cellar? This is San Francisco, jack. I don't even have a front or back yard. Where will I find a space under ground and get to take its temperature! Just tell me what the temperature is! 55 degrees? 45? Absolute zero?

I discussed this article with my friend Barbara, and she said, "My blender has all these settings: puree, frappe, beat... no matter which one I use, it comes out the same: glop. I think the recipes should give something more useful, like the *time* I'm supposed to turn the food into dervishes."

My blender's settings are: whip, stir, aerate, puree, crumb, chop, mix, grate, grind, beat, pulverize, blend, frappe and liquefy.

Aerate? If I have to mix a tomato with air, I don't need a blender, I need a juggler. And pulverize? Great food prep idea! Let's turn all our ingredients into pulvers!

So here are 14 blender settings that'd be more useful to me: eat, recognize, slap, wrath, injure, revenge, redefine, destruct, immolate, annihilate, nuke, disintegrate, apocalypse, self-cleaning.

With these, I could fill my blender container and be sure things would come out just as expected. Then I'd go out to eat.

by Don Stevens

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FOR WOMEN AT NIGHT

- by Betsy Randolph

Women will be glad to know that there is more than one way to skin a Saturday night these days. Thanks to the bright ideas of a few resolute individuals, there are alternatives to disco and mousse. Where else but... the Mission.

"I haven't been out this late in ages," exclaims a woman as she walks down Valencia Street and puts her sweater back on. "Pretty hot in there, wasn't it?" laughs another. They are talking about "COLORS", a Latin and funk dance club that happens every Saturday night, 10-2, upstairs at Amelia's, a well-known women's bar on Valencia and Sycamore.

Walking into Amelia's on the ground floor, I see a variety of women sitting at the beautiful old wood bar, talking at

of their native cultures. Felix and Connaber have produced COLORS for about a year, starting at Scooter's downtown and Rex's in Oakland.

COLORS moved to the upstairs space at Amelia's five months ago and has done quite well so far, though turnout has its ups and downs. "I'm not in this for the money," laughs Connaber. "I want to go to a place where I can dance to my music, and if I can be a part of providing that, great!" Women of color are the primary audience, but "we're not exclusive. All women are welcome, of course. Men too." Throughout our conversation in the back D.J. sound room, Connaber excuses herself periodically, to deal with a problem at the door, relieve the ticket taker, dance a few numbers. "We'll have a hard time getting this crowd out of here at 2 tonight!" nods Connaber. Out on the

no place to go on Saturday night" for women looking for an alternative to the several dance clubs that play a limited repertoire of music. "People should have a choice," she says. Kravitz, an energetic woman with bleach blonde hair, also started "Female Trouble", the Wednesday night club at Nightbreak that features live women's (punk and rock) bands. Female Trouble took "months" to get off the ground, but after a year is well-known and popular enough to be "consistent" — Kravitz' hope goal for EVOL, which began June 9.

Kravitz tends to the club: one eye always on the door, she collects empty bottles to help the bartender, toes to consult with the D.J., flutters around the bar to "chit-chat" with the clientele. "My job is to promote," says Kravitz. Why the name? "EVOL is... the other side of love.. The dark side, I guess," she shrugs, and then smiles as she looks around. "You know, this crowd is a little rougher" than some. Appearances seem to support this last comment; plenty of leather jackets and closely shaven heads. But the atmosphere is upbeat and friendly.

Some people love to go out on Sunday nights. Now there is another reason to, if you're looking for something different. XIXAX, at the Crystal Pistol (Valencia between 19th and 20th) is a "punk place for women, bar, gallery and performance space." Their flyer lists "Punks, beatniks, queers and New Yorkers" as invitees. In fact, a friend of the producers once described XIXAX as "beatnik punk".

The music here is mostly rock and punk, though they'll play "anything as long as it isn't disco or country-western!" Besides being a place "where you can hear music you won't hear anywhere else," XIXAX is also a forum for performance. Producers Alix and Zanne say there is plenty of space on the walls to hang art, (Zanne usually has a few of her own paintings up) and the dance floor is open to performance of all kinds.

"We've had the spoken word, dance, bongos, a seven-woman S&M act, you name it," says Zanne. They are currently soliciting students at the various art schools in the city to come to XIXAX to showcase their pieces and performances. And, in September, they hope to get some of the New York bands like Lunachicks to play at XIXAX.

XIXAX is aired mostly at women, but "boys are welcome". The club is a place to see and hear alternative art, gather and talk. It is not geared to "cruising".

Alix and Zanne moved to San Francisco from New York City where "it was too much of a struggle to survive," says Alix. When they started to go out to clubs here, they found "attitude at the door, attitude at the bar, attitude everywhere. We stopped going out after a while," admits Zanne. Then they sated XIXAX this spring.

There are alternatives. But as we all know to well, freedom of choice should never be taken for granted. Without active support, choices can't survive. Come on, women! It's time to go out.



Photo by COLLETTE SWEENEY

XAXX PERFORMER' MARY MARY

tables or dancing on the parquet floor in back, to what is referred to as "dance music" — disco, soul, techno-pop — played in the majority of dance clubs in the city. The women here are comfortable. "I can relate to this," says one, pointing at the speakers.

Upstairs, however, one enters a different world. The lights are low, the dance floor dominates the space and these speakers pulse with the beat of salsa. The music here at COLORS is mostly Latin, with some funk also. D.J. Chata Gutierrez, who plays here often, spins a variety of salsa styles, including the beautiful son from Cuba, and the fast paced merengue from Santo Domingo. "Everybody loves to dance to the merengue. Just watch the floor when I put this on," smiles Gutierrez. She is right.

COLORS was the brainchild of Diana Felix. She and co-producer Ana Connaber (and their friends) wanted a place where women of color (particularly Latinas) could go and listen to the music

floor, women are spinning and swirling, and the side tables are packed with women having a very good time.

Salsa's not your game tonight? You have a choice: Peacock Alley, over on 14th Street at Guerrero (next to the laundromat) is the site of "EVOL", an "alternative space" for women. From 9-2 on Saturdays women can come here for "music you won't hear at any other lesbian bar," says D.J. Ashu firmly. That means, "No 70's. No Paula Abdul. I play new wave, punk, rock, some rap." Ashu also works as a D.J. at KUSF, noted for its spectrum of new music and bands on the airwaves.

The bar is smallish but not cramped, decked in industrial decor. There is a dance floor at the back. A black-top pool table is pushed to one side and covered with a "Go-go dancer cage", for the midnight shows which take place on many a Saturday.

When asked why she started EVOL, producer Nancy Kravitz shakes her head and gestures with her hand. "There was

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IN MEMORY OF BERNARD PICK

1948 - 1990

North Mission Association Board Member and News financial writer Bernd Pick died last month at 42, leaving behind a void both in the community and in the hearts of those knew, loved, worked and argued with him.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Central Mission Merchants' group and in initiating reforms of the State Alcoholic Beverages Commission, according to Robert Cole who remembers "his enthusiasm and commitment to justice."

"He was a very effective, hard worker for the betterment of the Mission and a very nice guy," added NMA cohort Vivian Azadian.

Born in postwar Berlin, Bernd earned degrees in electrical engineering and education, coming to San Francisco in 1978. Norma, his wife of eight years, remembers him as an avid scholar with a special interest in European politics and the American constitution. He was a sharp critic of modern Western economic policies, which he knew from the inside as a tax accountant, and was the first to break the story of Gov. Deukmejian's shifty attempt to repeal the state's rent rebate law.

"Some people hate you if you disagree with them on anything. He wasn't like that. He knew how to fight with somebody and remain friends," said News Editor Victor Miller. A frequent target was another departed News columnist, Bill E. Badd, with whom he now, undoubtedly, is engaged in heated dispute.

"He never had a secret agenda," according to Mission Koban officer Jerry Nietz. "He cared about people and about things being better for them."

EYE CARE

by Chester Quan, O.D.

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Many parents ask what sign or symptoms to look for in their children that might reveal an eye or vision problem. There is no substitute for a complete eye exam - and all children should have one before beginning school. However Children displaying these symptoms should have a thorough eye examination:

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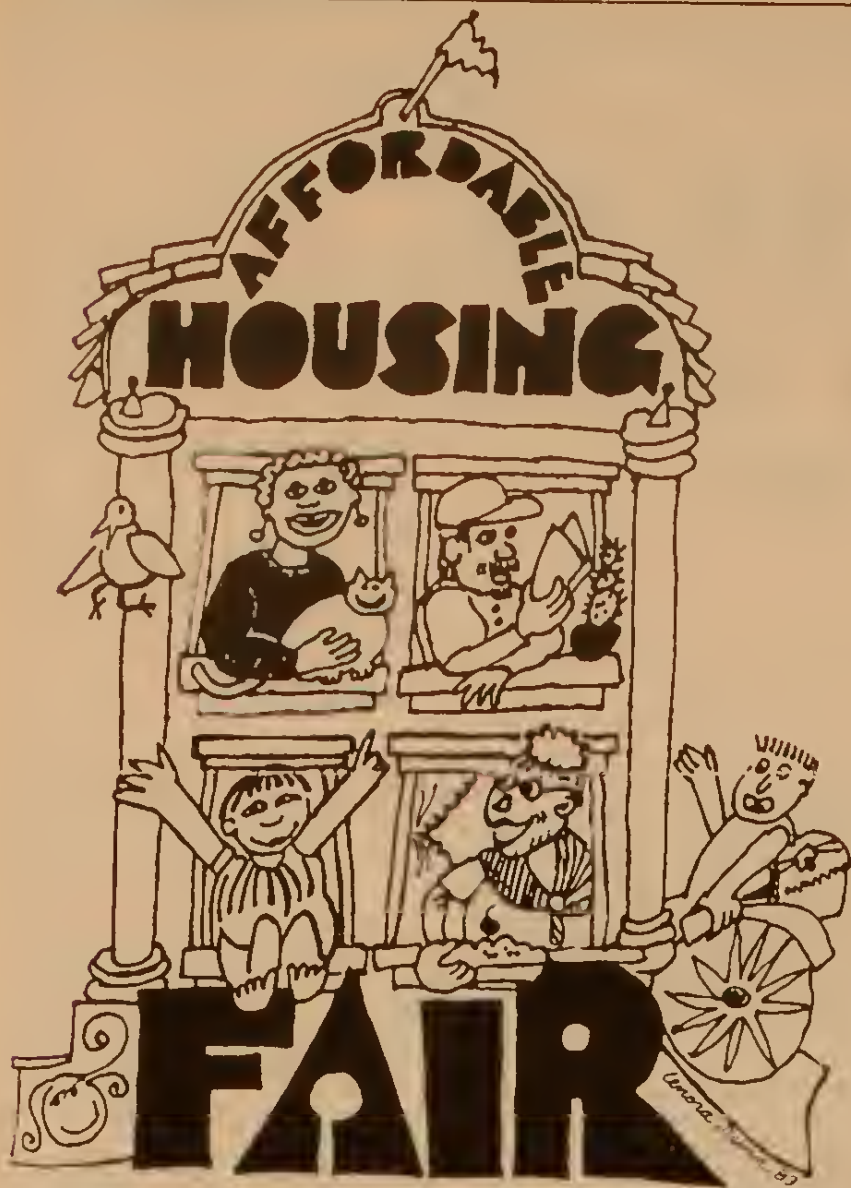
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"Housing in the Wake of the Earthquake" is the theme for this year's Affordable and Safe Housing Fair, slated for Saturday, September 22 from 10 AM to 4 PM at Civic Center Plaza.

A special Earthquake Pavilion will be one of many new features which are a part of this year's event, which is designed to provide information and assistance to those interested in finding and keeping homes that are earthquake safe and truly affordable. Hands-on demonstrations, videos and free preparedness material will be available in a variety of languages.

The Fair is sponsored by Catholic Charities, the City and County of San Francisco, and a broad cross-section of non-profit housing developers, government agencies, renters' rights organizations, homeless advocates, service providers for persons with special housing needs and public policy organizations dedicated to providing and preserving affordable housing.

Representatives from more than 90 housing related organizations will staff booths to answer fair-goers' questions, offer free legal and financial advice, provide free services and suggest tips on how to find and maintain affordable housing.

San Francisco's own Pickle Family Circus will headline this year's entertainment, with free performances at 11:30, 1:15 and 3:00. The City's up and coming new theater troupe, the Z

Collective, will present a "page" from a "Living Newspaper" piece about the housing crisis. Mariachis, magic, more music and food will abound. A free resource directory about housing and earthquake-related services in San Francisco will be available to all Fairgoers.

Fair workshops throughout the day will offer something for everyone regardless of their housing situation. Potential first-time homebuyers will find information on traditional and creative ways to become home-owners, with representatives from banks and government agencies on-hand to help. Information on limited equity co-ops, tenancy-in-common and co-housing will be available. Renters in market-rate and subsidized housing will find a wealth of information about their rights and responsibilities, including security deposits, evictions, rent increases, especially as it relates to post-earthquake repairs and safety issues.

A special series of workshops will focus on how congregations and neighborhoods can work together in developing neighborhood disaster preparedness plans.

Major contributors to the Fair include Pacific Bell, Wells Fargo Bank, PG&E, Great Western Bank, American Savings Bank, San Francisco Federal, Bank of America and the S.F. Task Force on Earthquake Recovery.

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by Lisa Berkelhammer, C.A.

Resist Protein Propaganda

"Beef: real food for real people." This advertising slogan, brought to you compliments of the beef industry, pushes American's protein buttons. Misinformation (often promoted by the meat and dairy industry) has convinced us that protein can only be derived from meat, dairy and eggs, and that omitting these from the diet will critically endanger our health.

Few Americans are suffering from protein deficiency; many are suffering from over-consumption of animal protein. Adults require about four ounces of protein daily; most Americans are eating several ounces per meal. (Nursing mothers and growing children may need more than four ounces.) This daily requirement can be easily supplied by a vegetable/grain diet.

American meat contains residues of herbicides, pesticides, antibiotics and hormones ingested by cattle. None of these substances are supportive of health, and should not be eaten by humans even in "trace" amounts. The protein molecule is complex and difficult for the body to break down and metabolize. Protein metabolism burdens the liver and kidneys, organs which are overly taxed by the stresses of modern living.

High protein diets cause demineralisation and calcium loss from bones. Over-consumption of protein is a major causation factor of osteoporosis. In addition, animal protein contains no fiber, and does contain a lot of fat and salt.

Vegetarians have been convinced that they must carefully combine certain foods in order to get complete protein. Many vegetarians feel that they must eat dairy products to substitute for the meat the no longer eat. In fact, eating a grain based diet with plenty of vegetables, some legumes and fruit will guarantee sufficient protein intake, provided that the diet is varied and the food of high quality (Organically grown, fresh and in season.)

If you wish to eat some animal protein on occasion, use small portions as a garnish rather than as the central component of the meal. Organic beef and chicken are widely available. Fish should be very fresh (no odor) and from deep ocean waters. Avoid large game fish such as tuna, shark, bluefish and swordfish (to name a few). These larger species feed on smaller fish, therefore concentrating environmental pollutants in their flesh. Small fish feed lower on the food chain and are less likely to be contaminated.

Some individuals report that they crave meat after switching to the vegetable/grain diet. Often this craving is really a craving for the fat content of meat. Fat tastes good to most people; it takes time to break the habit. (Any food craving may indicate that some imbalance has occurred and if it persists should be investigated.) Variety, quality and proper preparation are crucial to a truly balance, healthy diet; real food supports vitality, longevity and well-being.

Lisa Berkelhammer is a State and Nationally board Certified acupuncturist/herbalist and nutrition consultant in private practice in San Francisco.

QUANYIN



Finding A Practitioner For HIV: Quan Yin Recommendations

by Misha Cohen
O.M.D.

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through needle transmission or any other way. HIV infection is almost impossible to spread through acupuncture. Ask about sterilization technique. If he scares you by saying that only disposable needles must be used because of danger of infection, it means that they do not understand common hospital sterilization procedure for HIV or hepatitis or any other blood-borne transmission.

8. That you feel comfortable about what the practitioner is telling you about your condition.

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Mission District Calendar SEPTEMBER 1990

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Savage in Limbo, presented by Broads Off Broadway, a barroom drama about folks who don't take a liking to one another. A play by the author of *Moonstruck*. 8pm, 2565 Mission. \$5-7. 387-7209.

Auditions for *Vishnusharman*, for children ages 5-16. Sponsored by VOICES/SF and the Bay Area Youth Opera. By appointment only. Also Sept. 8 and 15. 431-2027.

Selections '90 Photography Exhibition, featuring the Best Series Winners of 1990. Sponsored by the Eye Gallery. Works of Deborah Donnelley and Bruce Bennett shown. 1151 Mission. Through September 15. 431-6911.

San Francisco Mime Troupe performs at Mission Dolores Park. 10am-5pm. 19th and Dolores. Also Sept. 3. 285-1717.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2
 20th Anniversary of the Chicano Moratorium, a commemoration. Events will include ballet folklorico, cultural performances and live music. Sponsored by the Chicano Moratorium Coalition. 6am - 8pm, Potrero del Sol Park, Army and Potrero Streets. 666-7107.

March for National Health Care, a huge demonstration to show that health care is a human right and our health care system must be refashioned to serve everyone. In memory of John Belskus. 2pm, Justin Herman Plaza (by the Ferry Building at the end of Market) to UN Plaza. 771-4688.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4
 New Directions, a multi-media exhibit celebrating artistic and cultural diversity, including Chicano/Latino and East Asian art forms. Sponsored by Galeria de la Raza and Kearny Street Workshop in conjunction with Festival 2000. Reception September 7, 7:30-9:30pm. Open Tuesday-Saturday, through October 13. 2857 24th Street. 826-8009.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
 Woman Window Square, a dance and theatre performance, by Margaret Jenkins, Rinde Eckert and John Sanborn. 8:30pm, Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida Street. \$13-17. Through September 9 (at 7:30pm). 621-7797.

The Story of Fausta, a powerful 1988 film tale of a domestic servant's struggle for survival in modern Sao Paolo. Music by Ruben Blades. The York Theatre, 2789 24th Street. Through Sept 11, also Sept 15,-16. 282-0318.

Impatiens, the story of Rachel, a hunchback girl and the suitors who pursue her in order to gain access to her prostitute sister's bed. A play by Octavio Solis. 8pm, Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. \$8-10. Thursdays-Saturdays, through September 30. 626-3311.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
 Occupancy, a collaborative architectural installation and series of performances by Howard Martin and the Rova Saxophone Quartet. 7:30pm, 8:30pm, Thursdays-Sundays, through Sept. 29. Project Artaud, 401 Alabama. \$6-7.50. 863-2141.

King of Rio, a 1986 film about the rise of two friends through the ranks in Brasil's sordid underworld that presents a provocative and thrilling political drama in modern Rio. The York Theatre, 2789 24th Street. Through September 9. 282-0318.

Ben-Hur, a dramatic adaptation of General Lew Wallace's novel by Thomas Disch. Presented by Thicke Description. 8:30pm, Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street. Thursdays-Sundays. \$10, or pay what you can on Thursdays. 863-7058.

Photo by MIA FINEMAN

The Space Between the Steps, is an intensely visual, lyrical piece about two incestuous brothers testing the edge of a town that is falling down. Through Sept. 8. 10:30pm, 1800 Square Feet, 719 Clementina. \$4-8. 255-1810.

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Northern Ireland is the topic of lecture by Irish activist Mary Nellis. She discusses how U.S. aid supports British oppression in Northern Ireland and how working class communities are creating their own political and economic alternatives. Promises to be fascinating. 7:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

the dreamer examines his pillow, a love drama. A new theatre's first production. 8pm, 21 Bernice, at 21 Bernice Street. Thursdays-Saturdays, through Sept. 29. \$7. 863-5946.

Mary Midgett will read from her book, *Brown on Brown.. Everyone Welcome*. Donation requested. 7:30pm, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Local 6 Concert, a quarterly showcase for new dance and performance. Presented by FOOTWORK. Also Sept. 8. 8:30pm, 3221 22nd Street. \$7. 824-5044.

Holly Near, yes, the Holly Near will sign and discuss her new autobiography, *Fire in the Rain, Singer in the Storm*. at 5:30pm SHARP, at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

Holly Near, yes, the some Holly Near will discuss her new autobiography *Singer in the Storm* as she crosses the street at 6:30pm SHARP over to Modern Times Bookstore, at 968 Valencia (right after her 5:30 engagement at the rival bookstore above). She can stay till 8pm. 282-9246.

Wendy Rogers Dance Company premieres *Stations of Light* and *Arroyo Seco*. 8:30pm, 3153 17th Street. \$10. Also Sept. 8. 524-8254.

Slice of Brasil, buffet and music at Studio Brasil. 7:30-9pm free buffet, 9pm-12am, music. \$6-8. Also Sept. 21. 50 Brady St. 863-0321.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

O Boto, a 1987 mystical film about a half-man, half-dolphin who, during the full moon, transforms himself into a and enchanting seducer of women. The York Theatre, 2789 24th Street. Also Sept. 12. 282-0318.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Privilege, part of the Yvonne Rainier Retrospective, Part ii. The San Francisco premiere of Yvonne Rainier's latest film, with Rainier in person on Tuesday. 7pm and 9pm, The Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street. \$3-5. 558-8129.

Open Gay/Lesbian Reading. Writers of all disciplines and levels are encouraged to come and listen and share. 7:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

Book Review: Sopagonio. Feminist Carolyn Quastler reviews Ana Castillo's novel about a society where all mestizos live and work together. Sponsored by Radical Women. Dinner at 6:45, \$5.00 donation. Review at 7:30pm, 723A Valencia. 864-1278.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Introduction to Chinese Herbs, with Misha R. Cohen, OMD. Come and learn about the use of Chinese herbal therapy for people with HIV. \$5 requested donation, FREE to herbal participants. Sponsored by Quan Yin Healing Arts Center. 8pm, 1748 Market Street. 861-4964.

Susie Sexpert, that is, author Susie Bright, in a book party for *Susie Sexpert's Lesbian World*. A breath of fresh air for the neo-puritan era creeping up on us. 7:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

Democracy Meets the Nuclear Threat, a video by the SF Nuclear Free Zone Coalition. Discussion to follow. 8pm, Forest Books, 3080 16th Street. 863-2755.

Elisabeth Nonas will read from her new book, *A Room Full of Women*. Everyone welcome. Donation asked. 7:30pm, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Ballet MINDDANCE San Francisco, a far-reaching dance program, in three classic *menoge o trois* scenarios. Featuring Dean Loumbas, Susan Allcluia, and Peggy Davis-Nixon. Has Cole Porter and Ella Fitzgerald accompaniment in one scenario. 8pm, Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida Street. 621-7641.

Michael Davidson and George Albon read poetry from their new and upcoming books. 8pm, Forest Books, 3080 16th Street. 863-2755.

Sisters in Crime, an authors' discussion featuring Susan Dunlap, Linda Grant, Gillian Roberts, Shelley Singer and Marilyn Wallace. Everyone welcome. 7:30pm, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Open Stage, an ongoing dance series with Olivia Corson and Clyde Smith. 8pm, Centespace, 2840 Mariposa. \$5. Also Sept. 15. 861-5059.

Press Conference, Endangered Species Support Group, on the newly-organized self-help organization designed by and for Blackmen, to combat extinction in this society. Moderated by J.B. Saunders. 10am, 3004 16th Street, #107. 621-6211.

Studio Brasil House Band, featuring Amaral, Bebianno and Escola Nova de Samba. 7:30-9pm, free buffet, 9pm-12am, music. Also Sept. 28. \$6-8. Studio Brasil, 50 Brady Street. 863-0321.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Utopias and Dystopias, films in the *Other Cinema* Series. Sponsored by Artists Television Access. 8:30pm, 992 Valencia. \$5. 824-3890.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Book Launching Party, for the late Karen Brodine's posthumous volume of poetry, *Womea Sitting at the Machine, Thinking*. Sponsored by Red Letter Press. 7pm,

Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. Admission free, \$5 for hors d'oeuvres. 864-1278.

24th Street Fair, from South Van Ness to Bryant. 11am-6pm.

Beirut, a plague drama in its local premiere. Set in the near future, victims of a sexually transmitted disease are branded and quarantined in New York City, and the punishment for sex is death. Presented by Genesis Theatre. 8pm, 934 Brannan. \$5-25. Through Sept 23, maybe longer. 391-8878.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Chumbawamba, an English political band, performs its unique variety of folk/punk music. Sponsored by Illin' Noise Productions. Call 861-7549 for information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Susie Sexpert, that is Susie Bright, returns to Valencia Street to read from her new book, *Susie Sexpert's Lesbian Sex. World*. Should be fun. 7:30pm, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Neighborhood Meeting, with Congressperson Nancy Pelosi. She wants to "hear your views on current issues in Congress relating to the welfare of children." She says she will also be available to assist you with individual problems you may have with federal bureaucracies.

Second Annual Affordable and Safe Housing Fair, featuring booths, workshops, culture, earthquake safety, and free resource directories. Sponsored by Catholic Charities and the City and County of San Francisco. 10am-4pm, Civic Center Plaza. 337-4583.

Lovesexy, a range of *ors erotica*, with cinema like *Dick Talk*, *Lovemaking* and *Shave Dance*. Early porn also shown and free condoms provided. 8:30pm, ATA, 992 Valencia. \$5. 824-3890.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Volunteer Training, for La Casa de las Madres, an organization providing battered women with shelter, counseling, support, child care and community education. Volunteer and make a difference! 777-1808.

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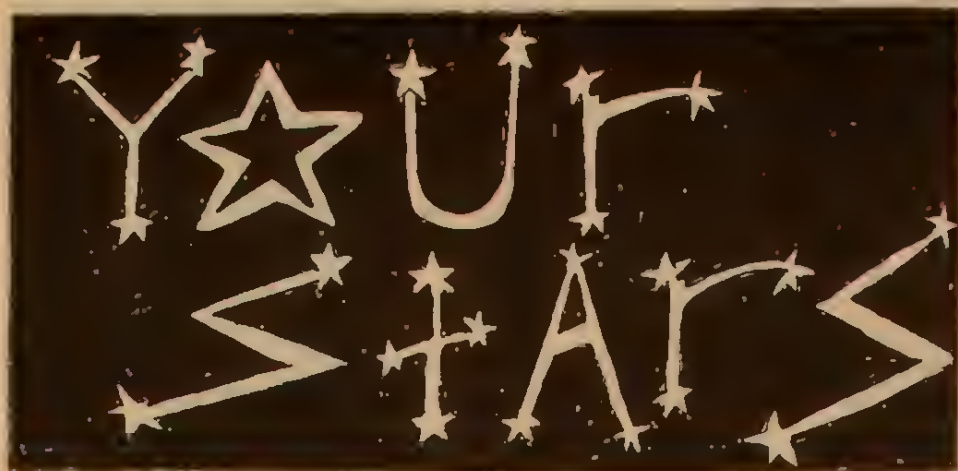
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- by Robert Cole and
Lowell Williams

Almanac: The Summer of 1990 draws to a strange mysterious close. Politicians screaming as their illusions fall apart, ancient traditions being dismantled by the threat of total ecological disaster, a driving subtleness as the haves turn their backs on the have-nots - whatever happened to the body-surfing, nude sunbathing, space-travelling summertime? the September Equinox is scheduled for the 22nd which is a Saturday this year. Let's plan great celebrations. Now the world belongs to everyone and the liberation of many has been accomplished. Uranus directs on 14th, Saturn directs on 22nd, and Neptune directs on 23rd.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): Working like a crazy fool will keep you away from the traditional summer leisure but it will expand your economic situation and your influence in the community in ways that you've wished for for years. Face it, your days as a beach bum are fading into the past; and you better adjust your memory to put those old romantic visions in their proper place. Comb your hair. Clean your clothes. Put on some shoes. And work a little on your attitude. The old "I'm cooler than thou" approach causes more harm than charm these days.

TAURUS (Apr. 19-May 20): The September Equinox signals the period of passivity in your annual cycle. After all these months of production, perfection and persistence, now the tides have turned in the opposite direction. It's time to relax, read, and respect those with whom you live. Family and housemates have obviously been dedicated slaves to your rampaging emotional crisis this summer. No one ever believed that you had so much anger pent up inside; not even yourself. Just be thankful weren't abandoned by the whole bunch. It's your turn to help them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The first three weeks of September present you with a series of challenging financial complications as the landlord suggests raising your rent, your boss suggests moving you to another town, and your lover tells you that he/she needs a profound change in your relationship. Where is all the love and trust you were counting on to pull you through this crazy season of the year? You can only depend totally on yourself. By the month's end the pressure will subside and you'll have more time to play.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Turn off the phone. Throw away your appointment book. Banish high hopes and dreams of fame and fortune, your whole spirit/psyche needs a major rest from the stupid illusions of professionalism and performance. Admit to yourself that you're a nobody; you're going nowhere; and maybe only ten people on the whole planet ever heard of you before. Now take three really deep breaths and look at where you're at. Identify with the other nobodies around you right now. Turn your exhaustion into a reason for taking a quiet vacation at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The money and financial thing has dwindled to less than nothing because you've been willing to live on a very thin shoestring. A serious look at situation could be quite shocking; after all, your days of living like a hippie in an abandoned VW bu are long gone. Signs and omens point to a series of major changes in your life when summer's done. Little dreams may get redesigned by big-time realities. But you know very well when the demand is there, you'll find the wherewithal to make ends meet. Be prepared.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The gradual blossoming of your personality this summer has captured the attention of many strange, new friends. Your old pals have disappeared or simply rejected the transformation in your personality; and maybe some day in the distant future you will meet again on the pathway. But for right now let your otherwise modest circumstances be swept up by the intense excitement of discovering a whole new you. Let it all hang out, baby! Take a walk on the wild side. Let risk rule your life while you still have time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Happy Birthday to you! How many years have you been spinning around on this little planet? Your age becomes you well in our opinion. Your parents (or other such authority figures) may not think so, but you have made a serious and lasting contribution to the community good. Stop waiting for parental approval. Take your creative process into the center of social revolution. Your music, your art, your vision will inspire big reactions. But don't rebel because the authorities expect you to, do it in spite of what they want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): This is the best time of the year for you to consult your astrologer, your psychic and numerologist. You might also be interested in the short-term observations of your banker, your lawyer and your doctor. You'll find yourself almost overwhelmed by the excitement which the future seems to hold for you. But don't believe anyone else's predictions unless they totally jive with your own dreams. By the time of the Equinox, you should be able to set a serious set of goals for yourself for the next twelve months.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): All hail the glamor puss of the zodiac! Bask in the bright sunlight of summer's end. Indulge in the fame and fortune which you worked so hard to earn. Look at what you have and admit to yourself that you're living in the perfect dream. Just think how many people all over the world (maybe all over the universe) wish they could be where you are at. Nobody wants to hear any criticism from you this month. Drool with total satisfaction and project yourself as extremely proud of your accomplishments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The alignment of Saturn, Uranus and Neptune which started way back in March of 1989 and has reached excruciating peaks of intensity in January and July of 1990 is finally going to loosen up as we move through the month of September. And then such

683 year. You owe yourself and your lover a good vacation. Split from the highly structured life you've made for yourself; it will hold itself up while your gone. Get into a primitive mode in celebration of the fact that your initiation is complete.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.18): You and your closest friend are approaching the high point of the year. The first two weeks will prove my point on the sexual, sensual level and the last two weeks of this month will prove my point on the economic, professional level. There's also a superb opportunity to pack away your responsibilities for four or five days and go flying off to some romantic island together. Underneath all the satisfaction this

month will bring there is a foundation of profound spiritual belief. Stick with what you believe in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Your thoroughly scattered lifestyle will be in some semblance of order by the Equinox thanks to the enduring faith of your lover. He/she has always believed that you have a tremendous potential that only needs a little bit of organization. Go along with the plan. Avoid using surprises as a way of arousing humor. If you can really trust in this new order, you will discover incredible sexual and spiritual intimacy by the end of the month. Surrender with total trust.

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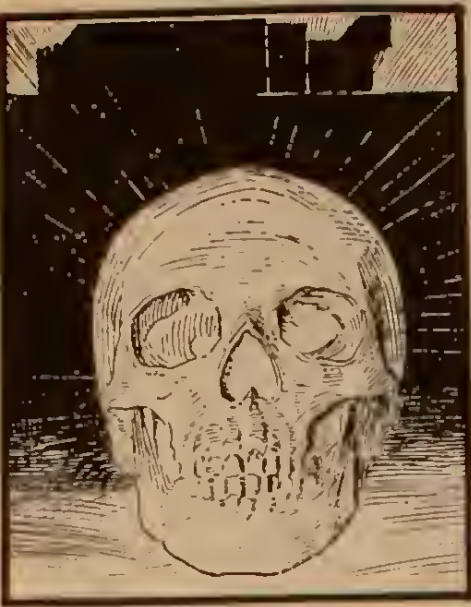
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"You've really done some masterful work with that Hussein character," Screwtape says. "A touch of Sargon, a dash of Hitler and, now, you've even got him talking Holy War! How'd you do it? Demoniac possession? Mindworms?"

Astaroth only smiles with his needle teeth.

Screwtape continues: "I especially like the way you've set the stage with that Iran-Iraq war, setting Moslem against Moslem, getting them to call each other and America the 'Great Satan'. Not to mention keeping those greedy pig 'Emirs' and Kings' in power for so long in that region — a classic, bloody Marxist dialectic in the making! What a lovely mess! This way, there's practically no chance those Allah boys are ever going to get together peacefully in the name of their God."

He spits a small meteor and watches it burn up in the upper atmosphere below

MO' BETTER WAR

his invisible, clawed feet. You've got it worked out so that the Moslems — and especially the Babylonians, er, Iraqis — are going to be mired in confusion, hate and evil for a long, long time. So, Astaroth, how'd you do it?"

Astaroth chuckles, absently smudging the Hubble telescope with an enormous thumbprint. He looks at his apprentice almost sheepishly with one of his many faces; the rest are still grinning, drooling the translucent ichor from which minor demons are formed.

"I didn't do a thing," he says. "Hussein's just a good old-fashioned dictator. A greedy, power-hungry, murderous megalomaniac — human through and through; a dime a dozen. I thought you were instigating this little showdown through your pets, the Americans, as part of your final thesis. You know, I'm really very proud of the way you've gotten them to pervert all their high-sounding principles and ideals for the sake of pure greed and selfishness — and how the technology you've given them has fuelled their greed (pardon the pun), turning luxuries into necessities worth killing for."

"Cars, for instance. What an ideal! After a few decades, the swine can't live without 'em! Not only are they poisoning their own atmosphere, altering the climate of the whole planet, but they're actually willing to send their more ignorant young men into a cloud of nerve gas rather than pay a little extra for fuel! I do believe you have surpassed your teacher, Screwtape."

"When I was doing Rome, the Romans knew they were imperialists — but these Americans! Ha! Their hypocrisy exceeds even that of the old British Empire, of which I was so proud! Not that they bother to pretend at 'civilizing the wogs' they're absolutely willing to go to war, not for freedom, democracy or even 'God' — but for

'continued economic growth'! — for the oil companies! — and they still believe they're the good guys, 'battling aggression and preserving the sovereignty of nations', as their President says!

"They allow millions to die at the hands of dictators whom they support for economic reasons, or to die of starvation in regions poor in resources they want — but let a 'friendly' family enterprise masquerading as a nation be invaded by an 'unfriendly' dictator, and just watch them all unfurl their blood-stained flags and wave them at Heaven! Panama was nice, Screwtape, but this is your masterpiece. The possibilities for bad faith and bloodshed are almost limitless! Just look at 'em!"

Astaroth's faces are aglow with pride in his apprentice's handiwork. "Look! Now they're blocking food shipments to Iraq! What splendid bullies — far more dangerous than poor Sadaam! They're letting Iraqi children starve to keep their own economy as fat as the Whore of Babylon Herself — at least for the rich. In the very name of peace and 'fair play', they promote the basest form of tribalism, telling their eager-to-be-deluded masses that American lives and livelihoods are somehow worth more than the lives of brown-skinned children in another country!"

"Surely they are on a subtler, slicker, faster track to Hell than any simple little

dictator like Hussein! So, young Screwtape, how did you manage it?"

Screwtape shuffles his clawed feet in the thinning ozone. "Well, actually..."

"No! Don't tell me!" — Astaroth's scaly belly begins to shake with laughter — "You didn't orchestrate this either, did you?"

"There was no need. They did it all themselves. Will I still get credit toward my final thesis?"

"Yes indeed, Screwtape. It is the very goal of all our work to train the humans to do our work for us! And it seems we have achieved that goal, eh?" He winks at his former apprentice with half his burning three-lobed eyes. "Our job here is finished. Congratulations."

"What now?"

"Oh, we'll come back occasionally to check on their progress, to make sure they're still wasting most of their physical and spiritual resources on mo' better wars-for-greed but, in the meantime, what say we hip hop over to Venus to pay those Amazon Women a visit?"

"And feed false information to that NASA probe?"

"Of course!"

"Lead the way, dear Astaroth, lead the way!"

By Frank Dealbeat

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